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AI hiring surge spreads beyond India's metro cities

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Sachin Tendulkar celebrates fifty three years of greatness



Karnataka Cabinet clears revised SC internal reservation formula

Decision allocates quota among sub-groups following legal and policy review

BENGALURU

In a significant policy move, the Karnataka Cabinet on Friday approved a revised formula for internal reservation within the Scheduled Castes (SC) category, allocating 5.25% each to groups 'A' and 'B', and 4.50% to group 'C'.

The decision was taken at a special Cabinet meeting chaired by CM Siddaramaiah, following deliberations on legal constraints and recommendations by expert committees. The move comes amid ongoing debates over equitable distribution of reservation benefits among sub-castes.

Addressing the media, the CM said the classification divides SC communities into three groups—A (Right), B (Left), and C (Shiva)—within the overall 17% quota. However, due to the 50% cap on total reservation mandated by

courts, the effective internal allocation has been adjusted within a 15% framework.

The earlier formula of 6:6:5 has now been withdrawn, and a fresh notification reflecting the revised 5.25:5.25:4.50 distribution will be issued. Siddaramaiah noted that the revision follows a Supreme Court ruling permitting internal reservation and subsequent recommendations by a commission headed by Justice Naga-mohan Das.

He added that around 6% reservation will be treated as backlog and addressed after the High Court delivers its final ruling on the overall reservation ceiling.

The Cabinet also decided that nearly 20% of posts within Category 'C' will be earmarked for nomadic communities, ensuring targeted benefits to the most marginalised sections.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- 20% of Category C posts reserved for nomadic communities
- 6% treated as backlog (pending court decision)
- Applies to upcoming 56,432 government recruitments
- Previous ratio (6:6:5) withdrawn

SC INTERNAL RESERVATION BREAKDOWN

- Total Scheduled Castes quota: 17%
- Effective allocation considered: 15% (to stay within 50% cap)

REVISED DISTRIBUTION:

CATEGORY A:	CATEGORY B:	CATEGORY C:
5.25%	5.25%	4.50%

'TMC goons won't find hiding place, end of jungle raj': PM

KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday intensified his attack on the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), warning that party "goons" would have no place to hide after the May 4 election results, as he cited record voter turnout as evidence of an impending political shift.

Addressing a rally at Dum Dum ahead of the next phase of polling, Modi said the unprecedented participation in the first phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections had already signalled the end of what he termed "jungle raj" in the state.

He claimed that the high turnout reflected people's desire for change and reaffirmed public faith in democracy. The Prime Minister also alleged that the ruling party had resorted to intimidation tactics but said such efforts would not deter voters.

Modi further stated that a BJP government would prioritise justice, law and order, and welfare measures for the middle class.

He highlighted economic

PM Modi said high turnout showed desire for change, strong faith in democracy, despite alleged intimidation attempts by ruling party.

steps taken by the Centre, including raising the income tax exemption limit, to ease the burden on citizens.

Congratulating voters in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, the Prime Minister said the massive turnout marked a decisive moment in the electoral process, indicating what he described as a strong wave in favour of change.



"After the results on May 4, the TMC's goons will find no place to hide. The files on every injustice will be opened—this is Modi's guarantee."

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



Raghav Chadha, six AAP MPs join BJP in major political shift

NEW DELHI

In a major political development, Raghav Chadha and six other Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MPs on Friday quit the party and joined the BJP, citing a shift away from core values and principles.

Along with Chadha, MPs Sandeep Pathak, Ashok Mittal, Harbhajan Singh, Rajinder Gupta, Vikram Sahney and Swati Maliwal formally announced their decision, claiming support of two-thirds of AAP's Rajya Sabha strength, enabling a merger under anti-defection provisions.

Chadha said the party he helped build had strayed from its founding ideals and no longer worked in the national interest.

Samrat Choudhary-led NDA proves majority with voice vote in House

NDA government wins trust vote in Bihar Assembly

PATNA

The NDA government led by Samrat Choudhary secured a decisive victory in the Bihar Assembly on Friday, winning the trust vote through a voice vote. The ruling alliance, backed by 202 legislators in the 243-member House, demonstrated a commanding majority, reaffirming its political strength.

Assembly Speaker Prem Kumar congratulated the government following the passage of the confidence motion. The development comes amid heightened political exchanges between the treasury benches and the Opposition.

During the debate, Choudhary strongly countered remarks by Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, rejecting claims about his political origins.

He asserted that leadership is earned through struggle and experience, not inherited privilege. Reflecting on his early career, he recalled his association with Lalu Prasad Yadav and said adversity shaped his journey into politics.

Choudhary also acknowl-



Bihar Assembly Numbers

Total Seats: 243
NDA Strength: 202
Majority Mark: 122
Opposition Strength: 41

Key Highlights

- Trust vote passed by voice vote
- NDA asserts unity and stability
- CM stresses governance priorities
- Opposition raises procedural concerns

edged the role of Nitish Kumar in his elevation, stating that his leadership continues to guide the state's development vision.

He emphasised the NDA's commitment to governance, highlighting priorities such as farmers' welfare, women's empowerment, and curbing corruption, crime, and extremism.

Deputy Chief Minister Vi-

jay Kumar Sinha reiterated that the government would function under Nitish Kumar's guidance, despite his shift to the Rajya Sabha, and ensure continuity in policy implementation.

The Opposition, however, questioned the necessity of the special session, arguing that earlier clarity on leadership could have avoided the exercise.

DK Shivakumar urges Centre to relax height norms near defence airfields

NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has urged Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to ease building height restrictions around defence airfields in Bengaluru, citing their impact on the city's rapid urban development.

During a meeting in New Delhi, Shivakumar submitted a memorandum highlighting that stringent norms imposed by defence authorities while granting No Objection Certificates (NOCs) are hindering infrastructure growth within a 20-km radius of airfields such as HAL Airport and Yelahanka Air Base.



He noted that under existing rules, building heights are capped at 150 metres within a 15-km radius.

However, defence authorities have extended these restrictions up to 20 km, limiting development in key urban zones where demand for real estate and infrastructure is high.

Shivakumar emphasised that Bengaluru, one of the fastest-growing cities globally, requires a balanced approach that ensures both aviation safety and urban expansion. He urged the Centre to review the guidelines and restrict the 150-metre cap strictly within 15 km.

Yediyurappa felicitation in Chitradurga on May 9, Amit Shah to attend

BENGALURU

A grand felicitation programme for former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa will be held in Chitradurga on May 9, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah set to inaugurate the event. Organisers expect over 10 lakh people to participate in the "Abhimanotsava" celebrating Yediyurappa's 50-year political journey.

Announcing the plans, MP Govinda Karjol said a bhoomi puja for the venue will be conducted on April 26 at 10 am. Senior leaders, including BJP state president BY Vijayendra, MPs, MLAs and opposition leaders such as R Ashoka and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, are expected to attend.

Karjol said the event is being organised to honour Yediyurappa's contributions to farmers, social justice and the growth

of the BJP in Karnataka. A "Purapravesh" programme is also scheduled on May 8 evening ahead of the main celebrations. Leaders said invitations have been extended to chief ministers, former chief ministers, ministers, and dignitaries from across the country, along with writers, artists and representatives from various fields. Large participation from farmers and the general public is also expected. Speaking on the occasion, Vijayendra said the celebrations aim to recognise Yediyurappa's role in building the party and serving the people. He described the event as a historic gathering reflecting public admiration for the veteran leader.

Mega Abhimanotsava to mark 50 years of BSY's political journey, lakhs expected

Organisers have formed multiple committees to manage logistics for the large turnout, with Chitradurga chosen for its central location in the state.



Opposition submits fresh notice to remove CEC

NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Friday submitted a fresh notice seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, marking the second such attempt in Parliament within a short span.

The notice has been signed by 73 Rajya Sabha MPs belonging to 11 Opposition parties, including senior leaders like Congress MP Jairam Ramesh and TMC MP Sagarika Ghosh. The move reportedly includes nine fresh charges against the CEC, expanding on earlier allegations raised in a previous notice.

Earlier, a similar notice had been submitted by 193 MPs from both Houses, raising seven charges.

However, that attempt did not move forward procedurally.

The current notice is yet to include a formal submission in the Lok Sabha, indicating that the Opposition has not finalised a joint filing strategy across both Houses.

Under constitutional provisions, the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner follows the same process as that of a Supreme Court judge. Article 324(5) ensures that the CEC cannot be removed except on



grounds and procedures similar to impeachment.

Once admissible in both Houses, an inquiry committee is constituted jointly by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

KEY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 50 MPs required in Rajya Sabha notice
- Minimum 100 MPs required in Lok Sabha notice
- Motion must be admitted in both Houses
- Joint inquiry committee formed after admission
- CEC removal follows Supreme Court judge-like process





Pics by Hampa Nagaraju



SCARCITY OF DRINKING WATER GRIPS

Summer Heat Drains the Lifelines Beneath the Heritage City

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

Once celebrated as the “Garden City of Palaces,” Mysuru was known for its tree-lined boulevards, cool summer breeze, broad footpaths, and uninterrupted 24x7 drinking water supply. In those golden days, most households never felt the need for underground sumps or borewells. Water flowed freely from taps, and life moved at a leisurely, comfortable pace.

Today, that Mysuru seems to be slowly fading. While a few green stretches and wide footpaths still remind citizens of the city’s glorious past, the reality on the ground tells a different story. Water scarcity has become a growing concern in several parts of Mysuru city, with many borewells drying up and groundwater levels showing signs of stress.

In earlier times, homes did not even have sumps, let alone borewells. But now, almost every household depends on a borewell, an underground sump, and plastic water tanks placed on terraces to survive the summer months. Water storage has become a necessity rather than a convenience.

One of the major reasons for this crisis is the decline in rainfall and the rapid disappearance of open spaces. With urbanisation swallowing vacant land, rainwater that once seeped naturally into the soil now rushes straight into drains and gutters. Rooftop rainwater harvesting systems, which could have helped recharge groundwater, remain absent in many homes.

Despite repeated awareness campaigns, many residents have still not realised the importance of rainwater harvesting. Experts warn that this

simple system may soon become the need of the hour rather than an optional environmental measure.

In several localities, borewells have completely gone dry. In others, the water yield has reduced drastically due to excessive dependence on groundwater. Reckless extraction without proper recharge has put enormous pressure on the underground reserves.

Yet, amid the concern, there is a ray of hope.

According to geologists, Mysuru’s underground water table has not fallen to alarming levels despite the uncontrolled drilling of borewells. The city continues to benefit from the presence of two life-giving rivers — the Cauvery and Kapila — which play a crucial role in maintaining groundwater balance.

Additionally, Mysuru re-

ceived reasonably good rainfall last year, helping recharge underground aquifers. Experts explain that during peak summer, a temporary dip in borewell water levels is quite natural due to high consumption and evaporation. Once the monsoon arrives, the groundwater is expected to replenish again.

Dry borewells during summer, they say, are not always a sign of permanent depletion but often a seasonal phenomenon.

However, this should not lead to complacency. Mysuru must act now by promoting rainwater harvesting, reducing groundwater exploitation, protecting lakes and open spaces, and encouraging responsible water use. The city that once symbolised abundance must now learn the art of conservation. Because every drop saved today is a promise for tomorrow.

Alleged ant bite death

MP Yaduveer visits Cheluvamba Hospital, seeks immediate action

MYSURU

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar on Friday called for immediate corrective measures at Cheluvamba Hospital after a parent alleged that their newborn baby boy died due to ant bites in the hospital ICU on Thursday.

Speaking to media persons after visiting Cheluvamba Hospital, the MP said several complaints had been received through the media, directly to his office, and on social media regarding poor conditions in the hospital. The allegation that a child had been bitten by ants was made by the parents, but the hospital authorities had stated that there were certain medical complications. Since the body has been sent for postmortem, he said no clear conclusion could be drawn until the report is received.

“Only after the postmortem report comes can we know what exactly happened. Until then, I will not make any accusation or take a clear position,” he said.

However, the MP pointed out that the poor sealing of windows and ceilings was clearly visible and required urgent attention. It was true that ants and insects were entering because of improper sealing and added that these repairs should be taken up immediately through MP LAD funds.

Yaduveer stressed that such infrastructure and maintenance work falls under the jurisdiction of the state government since it concerns the health sector, but added that Central government support could also be extended if required. There is a need for an for immediate arrangements for drinking water facilities, including both hot and cold water, for patients and attendants. The hospital currently has five water cans through CSR contributions and suggested that adding five more could help cover the entire corridor and ease the shortage. “These are works that can be done immediately. In the long term, the hospital must be developed in such a way that such incidents never



happen again”.

Expressing concern over rising child deaths, Yaduveer said more than 300 children had died in one year at Cheluvamba Hospital, with a total of 342 deaths recorded. The figures were serious and should be compared with the number of births and the previous year’s data. No child should die because of such issues. Proper facilities must be ensured.

He also highlighted severe staff shortages in the hospital, stating that patients come not only from Mysuru but also from Mandya, Chamara-janagar and surrounding districts, while the number of doctors and staff remains inadequate. This problem exists across the state. Even in Kodagu, doctors are not willing to come despite immediate appointment opportunities. The government must think seriously and make some compulsory arrangements for doctors to serve in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

Responding to questions about whether the government was neglecting the issue, he acknowledged that ₹50 crore had been sanctioned earlier when former MLA Nandendra was in office for development works, including

ICU-related improvements and restoration of the building. Those were good works, but the project is still incomplete and maintenance must continue. The present government must take action.

Yaduveer said he would definitely write to the government, adding that it was necessary to document the issue officially.

He also addressed allegations that poor patients, especially from rural areas, were being asked to pay money for treatment. Referring to videos and complaints that had gone viral on social media, he said the matter must be investigated seriously.

“If there is any specific case, bring it to my notice or directly to the police. We will definitely follow it up. There should be no corruption here. This is public money, taxpayers’ money, and patients should not be made to pay unnecessarily,” he said.

He said the hospital should not become a place associated only with fear and negativity, but one that gives confidence to patients and families. “The hospital must focus on saving lives, and even if complications arise, the patient and family should be comforted properly,” he added.

MP DONATES HOT WATER DISPENSER WITHIN 10 MINUTES

During his interaction with patients, MP Yaduveer Wadiyar was informed that there was no facility for hot water in the hospital. Responding immediately, he arranged for a hot water dispenser at once using his personal funds and provided it for the patients.

Patients and parents expressed great happiness over this gesture, saying that it was truly

heartening to see their MP respond so quickly and provide such an essential facility. They said they felt fortunate to have such a compassionate representative and appreciated the many benefits they had received through his support. They further expressed hope for more facilities from the people-friendly MP, stating that he would ensure all

necessary arrangements for them.

Responding to this, Yaduveer Wadiyar said that everyone must remain committed to prioritizing healthcare services in this hospital established by his ancestors. He assured that he would visit the hospital once every two or three months to inspect the facilities and address patients’ concerns.



Dr. Rajkumar bought laurels to Kannada language: MLA

MYSURU

Chamaraja Assembly Constituency MLA K. Harish Gowda said that Dr. Rajkumar was a great personality who brought honor and respect to the Kannada language by actively participating in the Gokak Movement.

Speaking today after offering floral tributes to the statue of Dr. Rajkumar at Dr. Rajkumar Park as part of his 97th birth anniversary here on Friday, he said the struggle led by Dr. Rajkumar through the Gokak Movement brought immense respect and value to our mother tongue, Kannada. Dr. Rajkumar had immense love for Kannada land and language, which was reflected not only in his films but also in his active role in the Gokak agitation. His love for Kannada should serve as an inspiration for the younger generation.

The MLA said said that Dr. Rajkumar’s films not only provided entertainment but also conveyed moral lessons. Many people changed their



lifestyles and became role models in society by learning from the values shown in his films. The richness of dialogues and literary beauty in his movies, it is difficult to find such quality in today’s films.

Krishnaraja Assembly Constituency MLA T.S. Srivatsa said that along with his acting, Dr. Rajkumar’s personality has remained immortal in the hearts of people even today. His personality and love for the Kannada language should serve as a guiding light for everyone.

Assistant Director of the Department of Information and Public Relations, Nirmala S.H., said that the songs sung by Dr. Rajkumar create deep emotional excitement. Even after receiving prestigious awards like the Padma Bhushan and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, he never showed arrogance and always referred to his fans as “God.” Discipline, punctuality, respect for elders, and devotion to the mother tongue are the valuable legacy he left behind for all of them.

Yet another multi-crore sites scam: Govt suspends Sub-registrar, others’

MYSURU

In a major crackdown on corruption, the Revenue Department has suspended a Sub-Registrar and staff of the West Sub-Registrar Office in Mysuru over their alleged involvement in an illegal property registration scam dating back to December 2025.

According to sources, the then Sub-Registrar, Srikanth, along with office staff, is accused of fraudulently manipulating and registering documents related to 22 sites belonging to Kergalli village in Mysuru taluk. The officials allegedly altered property documents and facilitated registrations in the names of individuals who were not the rightful owners.

Investigations reveal that the accused had uploaded documents in advance to secure registration dates and misused Aadhaar details and OTPs of the actual property owners without their knowledge. This enabled them to carry out illegal registrations bypassing due legal proce-

dures. Following the discovery of the irregularities, a criminal case was registered at Vijayanagar Police Station. An internal inquiry was also initiated under the supervision of senior Revenue Department officials. Preliminary findings confirmed document tampering and the use of corrupt practices in the registration process.

Based on these findings, the department has placed the accused officials under suspension pending further inquiry. Officials described the case as one of the biggest scams in Mysuru after the MUDA controversy.

Former MLC Siddaraju, BJP district spokespersons Mohan and K. V a s -

anth Kumar played a key role in bringing the issue to the department’s attention. MLA Srivatsa also met the Revenue Minister and submitted detailed information, prompting swift departmental action.

Leaders have welcomed the move and demanded similar action against officials involved in other illegal property registrations, including those linked to MUDA.



Autism Awareness Walkathon in Mysuru tomorrow

MYSURU

In a collective effort to promote awareness, acceptance, and inclusion for individuals on the autism spectrum, Devdan Foundation is set to organize an Autism Awareness Walkathon on Sunday in the city. The event will commence at 6.30 am from Kote Anjaneya Swamy Temple, located near Mysuru Palace, and will conclude at the University of Mysore Oval Ground.

The initiative is being held in association with Paddha Trust, Rotary E-Club Mysore, Project Reach Out Mysore, and Eshwar Vidhyala Mysore. It aims to bring together people from all walks of life to foster a better understanding of autism and to support individuals and families affected by it.

Addressing media persons, Subha Urs, Founder of Literature Club Mysore, and Jayanti Balal, along with Devaiah Koterra and Ballachanda Dhanya Uthappa, Founders of Devdan Foundation, highlighted the importance of early intervention and community awareness. Sangeetha, Trustee of Paddha Trust, Bopanna, Rotarian from E-Club Mysore, and Kishore Bidappa, Proprietor of Eshwar Vidhyala Mysore, also stressed the need for active public participation in building an inclusive society. The walkathon is expected to witness enthusiastic participation from parents, educators, students, and the general public, serving as a meaningful step towards spreading awareness and encouraging acceptance of individuals with autism.

BRAVING PAIN, CHASING GLORY

A boy scores 98.08 % in SSLC despite serious mishap

MYSURU

Determination and courage have once again proved that no obstacle is too big for success.

The son of Mysuru City (District) Congress Campaign Committee President and former City Corporation member Raghu Raje Urs has secured an impressive 613

marks out of 625 (98.08%) in the 2026 SSLC examinations. A student of Taralabalu High School, Kuvempunagar, he achieved this remarkable feat despite suffering severe injuries in a road accident during the school’s educational tour on December 4 last year.

The accident left him with serious injuries to his right

shoulder, hand, and two bones in his back. Due to the severity of the injuries, he was unable to attend school for nearly two months and had to remain at home, making studies extremely difficult.

However, with immense determination, hard work, and dedication, he continued his preparation and emerged with outstanding results, bringing

pride and joy to his family.

Expressing happiness over his son’s achievement, Raghu Raje Urs congratulated him for his perseverance and success.

He also extended heartfelt gratitude to the headmaster and teachers of Taralabalu High School for their guidance and support during this challenging period.



QUICK READ

Body of unidentified man found in bag, murder suspected

BENGALURU

Panic gripped residents after the body of an unidentified man was found stuffed inside a bag in BDA Layout, Lakshmipur under Gangammanagudi police station limits on Friday. Locals on a morning walk noticed stray dogs dragging the bag and alerted police. Officers rushed to the spot and began an investigation, suspecting the victim was murdered and dumped. Forensic Science Laboratory and SOCO teams inspected the scene. The body was recovered from a deserted area, and efforts are underway to establish identity. Police said the will be sent for postmortem after preliminary examination.

Man dies by suicide after alleged harassment by lenders

BENGALURU

A 45-year-old man allegedly died by suicide after jumping from the 13th floor of an apartment in the Sampigehalli police station limits. The deceased, identified as Vivekananda, had reportedly gone to view a flat in the building before taking the extreme step. Police said he had borrowed large sums of money and was under pressure from lenders to repay the loans. Family members have also alleged harassment during questioning by CCB police in connection with a complaint against him. Sampigehalli police have registered a case and are investigating further.

35 peacocks die amid searing heat

BENGALURU

At least 35 peacocks have died in Tumakuru district amid intense heat wave conditions, raising concerns among forest and veterinary authorities. The deaths were reported from Bommanahalli and Machenahalli areas, spread across 500 metres to 1 km, suggesting a wider environmental impact. Veterinary teams have conducted post-mortems and sent samples for laboratory analysis, with results expected within 48 hours. Preliminary findings indicate lung damage, while bodies remained largely intact. Officials suspect heat stress and dehydration as primary causes but have not ruled out bird flu. Water samples have also been collected, and affected sites sealed as a precaution.



11 elevated corridors planned to ease Bengaluru's traffic congestion

State plans major elevated corridors to tackle Bengaluru's growing traffic crisis

BENGALURU

In a major push to address Bengaluru's worsening traffic congestion, the Karnataka government has drawn up an ambitious plan to construct 11 elevated corridors across key bottlenecks in the city. The project aims to provide a long-term and sustainable solution to traffic woes in India's tech capital. The proposed corridors, spanning a total length of 75.60 km, are estimated to cost ₹13,262 crore. Of this, ₹7,150 crore will be funded directly by the government, while the remaining amount will be executed under the hybrid annui-

ty model. Additionally, ₹2,072 crore has been earmarked for land acquisition. The project will be implemented by Bangalore Smart Infrastructure Limited and will cover five municipal corporation limits within the city. The corridors are strategically planned to decongest some of the busiest and most traffic-prone stretches.

Key proposals include a slit flyover at MEI Junction on Tumkur Road, a grade separator linking Pipeline Road to Outer Ring Road via Mahalaxmi Layout, and a major elevated corridor connecting Minerva Circle, Hudson Circle, KR Circle and Town Hall.



Other crucial routes include Kanakapura Road near Raghuvanhalli Cross and an elevated stretch from Doddaballapura Road Police Station Junction to Kogilu Circle.

Additional corridors are planned at Konanakunte Cross and from Yeshwantpur-Mattikere to Old Madras Road via IISc and Mekhri Circle. A major east-west link

will connect Old Madras Road to Electronic City via Indiranagar, Old Airport Road, Hosur Road and Silk Board Junction—one of the city's most congested zones.

Further, elevated corridors from Sirsi Circle to Nayandahalli and Talaghattapura to Kanakapura Main Road are expected to ease traffic flow in south and west Bengaluru.

Officials believe the project will significantly reduce travel time, improve connectivity and boost productivity. However, challenges such as land acquisition, environmental concerns and execution timelines remain critical factors in determining its success.

Riot over pigeon theft leaves youth dead, five arrested

BENGALURU

A dispute over alleged pigeon theft escalated into a fatal attack in Rajagopalanagara, leaving a 24-year-old man dead and five accused in police custody. The victim, Mallikarjan Rao, was murdered near Vignyan Public School on the night of April 21. According to police, he had accompanied his friend Prashanth, a pigeon breeder, to confront a group accused of stealing pigeons a few days earlier. During the confrontation near Laggere, a heated argument turned violent, and the accused allegedly stabbed Mallikarjan in the stomach with a dagger, resulting in his death. Police have arrested five suspects—Darshan (28), Surendra (27), Mahendra (29), Vijay (26) and another Darshan (26), all residents of Nandini Layout.

DELAYS DOG SPICEJET, BENGALURU-KOLKATA FLIGHT GROUNDED FOR HOURS

BENGALURU

Fresh disruption unfolded at Kempegowda International Airport after SpiceJet flight SG768 from Bengaluru to Kolkata was delayed for several hours due to a technical snag, adding to growing passenger complaints over repeated delays and poor communication.

Passengers said the flight, originally scheduled to depart around 2 pm, remained grounded even past 10 pm, with no clear updates from

the airline. Travellers alleged they were left waiting at the boarding gate with minimal staff presence and inadequate assistance. Anupam Mitra, one of the passengers, said the delay began with a brief announcement but gradually stretched into hours without resolution. He also claimed that despite the prolonged wait and ticket costs exceeding ₹10,000, no refund or proper support was provided. Airport officials later attributed the delay to aircraft maintenance issues. However, pas-



sengers expressed frustration over the lack of transparency and communication from airline staff throughout the ordeal. The incident adds to a series of recent complaints against the airline. On April 22, a passenger alleged a 26-hour delay on flight SG269

and claimed he was made to pay ₹5,250 at the airport under what he described as an unclear policy. On the same day, another flight was delayed by nearly four hours, causing disruption to onward travel plans and triggering protests by passengers at the airport. Frequent delays have raised concerns among travellers over operational reliability and customer service standards, with many demanding stricter accountability and better communication protocols from the airline.

Energy Minister George launches BESCOM 'HT Mitra' portal for consumers

BENGALURU

Karnataka Energy Minister KJ George on Friday launched 'HT Mitra', a dedicated service request and grievance redressal portal for high-tension (HT) electricity consumers under BESCOM.

The portal, developed by BESCOM engineers, aims to provide a transparent, efficient and user-friendly system for over 18,000 HT customers, including industries, IT/BT firms and commercial establishments. It enables users to register complaints, request services and track their status in real time—features that were previously unavailable through traditional channels like the 1912 helpline or in-person visits.

Speaking at the launch, George said the initiative reflects the government's commitment to leveraging technology for better service de-

livery. He emphasised that ensuring quality power supply and quick resolution of consumer grievances remains a top priority.

Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) Gaurav Gupta noted that the platform would enhance ease of doing business by offering timely and transparent solutions to high-load consumers. BESCOM Managing Director N Sivashankar added that the system would improve accountability, as officials can monitor actions taken on each complaint.

The portal also integrates automated SMS alerts to keep users informed at every stage, ensuring continuous communication between customers and officials.

Expelled leader 'Queen Khan' accused of assaulting party member

BENGALURU

A political dispute in Bengaluru has turned violent, with an expelled party leader allegedly storming a colleague's residence and carrying out an attack following internal differences.

According to police, Shahbaz, who had earlier contested in the Davanagere South by-election, was allegedly assaulted at his house by Queen Khan and a group of associates. Sources said the incident stems from internal party tensions. Queen Khan, previously associated with the Youth Empowerment Party, was reportedly expelled over alleged anti-party activities. The fallout is believed to have triggered the confrontation.

Amid Karnataka's rethink on Hindi, SSLC students score better than ever

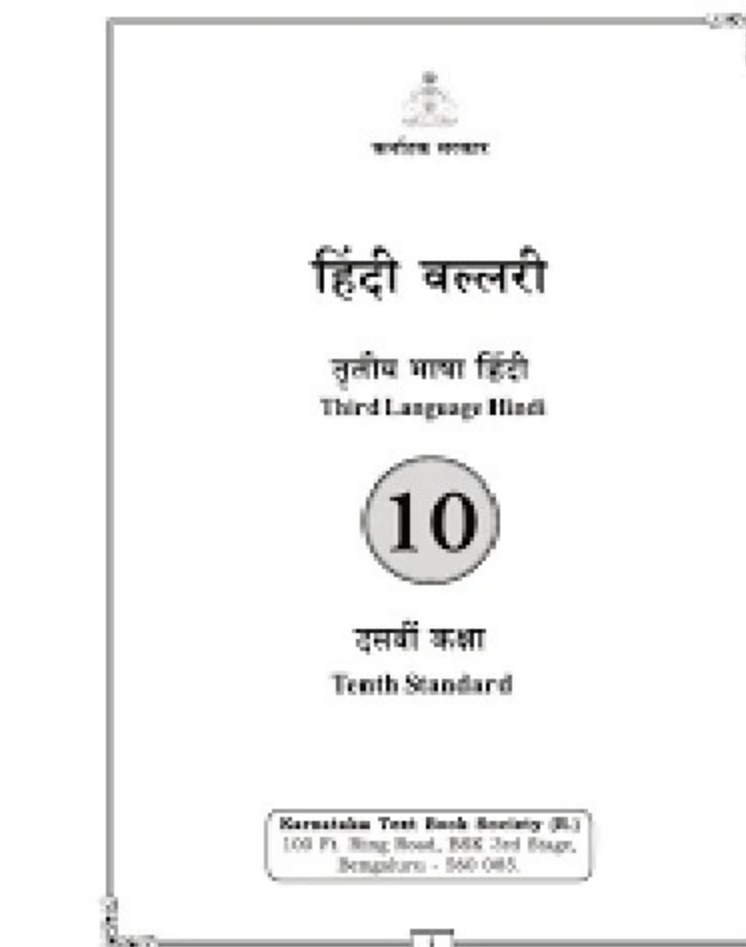
BENGALURU

Amid ongoing policy discussions in Karnataka over the role of Hindi in school education and a proposed shift to a grading system instead of marks for the subject in SSLC (Class 10) exams, the 2026 results have shown a sharp and unexpected rise in performance. According to data released by School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa, the pass percentage in Hindi has jumped significantly to 98.6% in 2026, compared to 87.5% in 2025. The improvement of over 11 percentage points has drawn attention from both policymakers and education experts.

Out of more than 7 lakh students who appeared for Hindi, around 6.9 lakh

cleared the subject this year. In contrast, nearly 75,000 students had failed in 2025, but this number has now dropped sharply to about 9,000.

Officials from the Department of School Education said the improvement is visible across both urban and rural regions, with notable gains even in government schools in remote areas. They attributed the rise to improved teaching methods, structured revision programmes, and exam-focused learning support introduced over the past year. However, the results have also reignited debate over Karnataka's language policy. The state government has been considering a two-language formula and a grading system for Hindi, aimed at reducing academic pressure and addressing con-



cerns about linguistic imbalance. While some educationists see the results as evidence of better learning outcomes, pro-Kannada groups argue that the numbers do not resolve the broader policy concerns. They maintain that the debate over "linguistic imposition" continues despite improved pass rates.

Nitin Gadkari promised to repair Hosur Road by April-end: Kiran Mazumdar Shaw

BENGALURU

BIOCON Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has said that Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari assured her that the heavily congested Hosur Road stretch in Hebbagodi will be restored to better condition by the end of April.

Mazumdar-Shaw said she raised concerns about the poor condition of National High-

way 44 earlier this month through a post on X, describing the stretch as badly designed and poorly maintained. She also highlighted the lack of response to repeated complaints about daily traffic snarls affecting commuters and industry employees in the region. Following her post, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) responded stating that the road, completed in 2010, now carries far

higher traffic volumes due to rapid urban expansion around Bengaluru's industrial corridors. Shaw later met Gadkari, who she said acknowledged the poor condition of the highway and assured swift action. "He was very helpful. He said he was upset that the national highway was in such bad shape and promised to improve it," she said on the sidelines of the STAMP (Nudging Commuter Behaviour) event.

Tents and solo travellers, a safety check in focus

BENGALURU

The reported sexual assault on a US citizen has brought renewed attention to safety risks faced by solo travellers staying in tents, which often lack internal locking mechanisms. The incident has raised concerns among adventure enthusiasts and trekkers who frequently opt for tented accommodation in homestays, resorts, and trekking camps across Karnataka.

Experts say tents, while popular for outdoor experi-



ences, come with inherent security vulnerabilities. Depending on their design, altitude use, and material, tents may not offer adequate protection against intrusion.

"There are different kinds of tents, but the most import-

ant aspect is proper ventilation and ensuring safety awareness. At the same time, one must also be alert to potential dangers outside," said S Srivatsa, Secretary of the Karnataka Mountaineering Association (KMA). He stressed that personal security must be treated as a priority. "A tent is like a personal home. No one should enter without consent," he added, urging travellers to be cautious, especially in homestays or private estates where canvas tents are provided.

ROAD WORK STALLED

Revised PWD bitumen rates fall short of market surge

BENGALURU

Road development across Bengaluru has taken a major hit as revised bitumen rates by the Public Works Department (PWD) fail to match soaring market prices, forcing contractors to halt work on a large scale. PWD revised bitumen rates earlier this month after prices breached the 10% variation threshold. However, contractors say the updated rates remain significantly lower than actual market rates, making projects financially



unviable. As a result, officials from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) estimate that over 90% of asphalt works in the city have come to a

standstill. Contractors point to a sharp spike in bitumen prices—from around ₹45,000 per tonne earlier to nearly ₹80,000 per tonne now—driv-

en by supply disruptions from major refining hubs such as Mangaluru and Maharashtra. They argue that even the revised PWD rates do not reflect this steep increase. GM Nandakumar, President of the Greater Bengaluru City Corporation Contractors' Association, questioned the feasibility of continuing work under current rates, stating that contractors are incurring heavy losses. He added that work would resume only after the government approves a "star rate" model, which allows

payments based on prevailing market prices. The contractors' association has submitted a representation to the GBA Commissioner, seeking immediate release of differential payments under the star rate mechanism. It has also invoked the force majeure clause under Karnataka's public procurement framework, citing global disruptions, including the ongoing Iran-America conflict, as a major factor behind the unprecedented rise in input costs.

High Court stays case over misleading Griha Jyoti video

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has stayed proceedings against a Telangana-based man accused of sharing a misleading video about the state's Griha Jyoti scheme. A single-judge bench led by Justice M Nagaprassanna passed the interim order while hearing a petition filed by Ravikanth Samrat from Karimnagar, seeking to quash a case registered at East CEN police station in Bengaluru. The petitioner's counsel argued that the video featuring Energy Minis-

ter KJ George was reposted unintentionally in November 2023 and deleted within hours after inaccuracies were identified. BESCOM officials contended that the video falsely suggested a power shortage under the Griha Jyoti scheme, a claim backed by forensic analysis. The complaint was originally filed by BESCOM General Manager CN Manjunath. Taking note that the content was promptly removed, the court stayed further proceedings until the next hearing.

QUICK READ

Man dies of electrocution while picking mangoes

MANIPAL

A 55-year-old man died after being electrocuted while harvesting mangoes behind the Rajatadri District Magistrate's Office complex on Friday morning. Police said an overhead electric wire near a tree came into contact with an iron pole used for picking mangoes, leading to the fatal shock. The deceased has been identified as Sadanand Devadiga, a resident of Alevoor village and reportedly a village assistant by profession. He died on the spot. Fire and emergency services personnel and police reached the location and shifted the body. A case has been registered at Manipal Police Station and further investigation is underway.

New Mangalore Port achieves full solar power milestone

Mangaluru

The New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) has officially attained 100% solar-powered operations, marking a significant step forward under India's Green Port Initiative. According to an official announcement, the port has generated a cumulative total of 57.96 million kWh of solar energy since the financial year 2016-17. During the current fiscal year 2025-26 alone, solar power production reached 56.5 lakh kWh. This renewable energy achievement has resulted in a substantial reduction of approximately 4,800 tonnes in carbon emissions. In addition, the port has realised cost savings of around Rs3.5 crore on electricity expenses. The development highlights NMPA's commitment to sustainable and environmentally responsible port management.

Mandya announces long power cut on April 25

MANDYA

The Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) has announced a scheduled power outage in parts of Mandya on April 25 due to quarterly maintenance work at the Chikka Mandya Power Distribution Centre. Officials said electricity supply will be disrupted from 9 am to 6 pm. The shutdown will affect urban areas such as Shankarpur, Jain Street, Beedi Colony, Jabar Circle, Holalu Circle, and Vinayakananda area, along with rural regions including Gopalpur, Chikka-mandya, Sathanur, Kommerahalli, Huliwana, K. Goudagere, H. Malligere, S.I. Kodihalli, Sampahalli, and Goravale. Authorities requested public cooperation during the maintenance work to ensure better power services.

Human-wildlife conflict rising due to encroachment: KV Prabhakar

KV Prabhakar urged journalists to highlight environmental damage, study widely, and responsibly report people's ecological concerns

TUMKUR

KV Prabhakar, Media Adviser to the Chief Minister, said that environmental destruction in the name of development is a serious concern. He spoke at a seminar on Environmental Journalism Celebration held at Siddhartha Center for Media Studies in Tumkur. He said encroachment of traditional wildlife land is increasing human-wildlife conflict. He said the seminar is not only academic but also a reminder of media responsibility during the environmental crisis. He added that how journalists see and understand facts shapes their professionalism. He advised aspiring



journalists to read at least five newspapers daily and understand issues from village to national level. He said journalism in India still has strong foundations built by senior journalists, and it must continue with new methods even under corporate media control. He stressed that journalists should act as the voice of people affected by environmental damage rather than only informing them. He highlighted that environmental reporting should connect local issues from

places like Tumkur with national and global struggles. This will give strength to local movements. He said journalists must have courage to question environmental damage caused in the name of development and also highlight positive examples of conservation. He explained that complex issues like climate change and global warming should be written in simple language so that common people can understand them. He also said environmental journalism is not only desk work but requires field visits to forests, hills, and villages. He suggested that journalists should learn basic environmental laws to report issues like illegal mining and

forest encroachment more effectively. He also encouraged the use of social media to spread environmental awareness. He said organizing seminars on environmental journalism is important at a time when news is dominated by politics and crime. He warned that the environmental crisis will grow in coming years and media must act as a bridge between government and people. He appreciated Siddhartha Media Studies Center for encouraging students to build both knowledge and social concern among the students. He urged responsible journalism for sustainable future balancing development and environment protection now.

Committee formed to monitor scanning centres strictly

MANDYA

Dr. Kumar has called for strict monitoring of all scanning centres in the district and proposed formation of a special committee following reports of illegal fetal gender detection under the PCPNDT Act. He was speaking at a review meeting held at the district collector's office after Lokayukta police registered a case based on irregularities found in private diagnostic centres. He said that scanning records were not maintained properly and instructed officials to conduct a detailed inspection of all centres along with district and taluk level committees within ten days. He directed that FR forms for the last six months should be audited and reports submitted in prescribed format to ensure compliance with rules. The committee will also verify cases involving minors and ensure immediate action under the POC SO Act and PCPNDT Act where violations are found.



Chikkaballapura marks Panchayat Raj Day progress

CHIKKABALLAPURA

National Panchayat Raj Day was celebrated at the District Administration Hall in Chikkaballapura, highlighting the role of gram panchayats in rural governance and development. District Collector G Prabhu said gram panchayat staff and elected representatives must work with responsibility and within the law to ensure better results for rural communities. He noted that gram panchayats function as the backbone of local governance, managing services like schools, hospitals, and other public institutions effectively. He said people's participation and cooperation with local bodies have helped the district achieve strong performance in tax collection and

DC G Prabhu praised gram panchayats' governance, Chikkaballapura's tax ranking, land rights drive, and rising local revenue for rural development

governance indicators. Chikkaballapura district has secured second place in tax collection in the state and fourth place in the Panchayat Raj administrative system, he added. Officials also highlighted progress under the Special Revenue Gram Abhiyan 2.0 programme, under which thousands of land rights certificates are being issued. The district is preparing to distribute over one lakh such certificates in the coming months to improve land ownership records.

MLA says artists must serve society beyond

UDUPI

MLA Yashpal Suvarna said that Dr. Rajkumar's life and values should be followed by the youth as a model of simplicity and social commitment. He was speaking while inaugurating the Dr. Rajkumar Jayanti programme organised jointly by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Information and Public Relations Department, Udupi, and the Indian Red Cross Society at the Red Cross Hall in Brahmagiri. Suvarna said that celebrating the birth

anniversary of a film actor at the national level is rare, and Rajkumar remains unique not only as an actor but also as a simple and humane personality. He added that Rajkumar's way of life showed how artists can contribute meaningfully to society beyond cinema. He urged the youth to study Rajkumar's life and adopt his values. Indian Red Cross State President Basarur Rajeev Shetty, who presided over the programme, said that Rajkumar's achievements and popularity make him a pride of Karnataka.

Upalokayukta Justice B Veerappa launched rural cleanliness drive in Srinivasapur, stressing sanitation, accountability, and welfare delivery

LOKAYUKTA DRIVES RURAL CLEANLINESS PUSH IN SRINIVASAPURA

SRINIVASAPURA

Karnataka Upalokayukta Justice B Veerappa on Friday launched a cleanliness and awareness drive across several gram panchayats in Srinivasapur taluk, including Gowripalli, Rayalpadu, Nela-vanki-Lakshimpura and Tadi-gol Cross, focusing on improving rural sanitation and accountability in public services.

He said cleanliness in villages should not be treated as a one-time programme but must become a continuous public movement. He also stressed that both officials and citizens share responsibility in maintaining hygiene and ensuring better living conditions in rural areas. Justice Veerappa warned



government officials to act responsibly within legal limits and ensure that welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary. He said negligence in duty would lead to strict accountability if problems persist in villages. Kolar Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr Praveen P Bagewadi said development in rural areas is possible only with active par-

ticipation of local communities. He highlighted that drinking water systems are being repaired on priority and said gram panchayats in the district have achieved full tax collection. He also noted that Kolar has recorded 100 per cent progress in MGNREGA work generation. Officials said sanitation has been strengthened across vil-

lages through regular cleaning drives and awareness programmes. GPS tracking has been introduced for waste collection vehicles to improve monitoring and ensure timely service delivery. Action will be taken against any negligence, they added. Taluk Panchayat officials said daily waste collection systems and soak pits have been implemented to improve drainage and hygiene in villages. As part of the programme, roads, public areas, and village surroundings were cleaned, while residents and shopkeepers were advised to maintain cleanliness. Senior officials including the Deputy Commissioner and Zilla Panchayat officers participated in the drive along with MGNREGA and panchayat staff.

Kalaburagi to mark Buddha Jayanti on May 1

KALABURAGI

Kalaburagi district will celebrate Lord Buddha Jayanti on May 1 with traditional enthusiasm, officials confirmed during a preparatory meeting held on Friday at the District Commissioner's office hall. The meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Rayappa Hunasagi, who said the main programme will be held at 9 am in front of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar statue at Jagat Circle in the city. He urged officials and community leaders to take part in large numbers to ensure the success of the celebration. He also instructed that Buddha Jayanti should be observed mandatorily at 9 am in all government offices, schools, and colleges across the district. Proper arrangements, including cleanliness, drinking water, and basic facilities at the main venue,

were directed to be ensured without fail. Officials were asked to select the Jayanti committee president and invite experienced speakers for the event. He stressed that the celebration should reflect respect for Lord Buddha's teachings and values. Deputy Director of the Kannada and Culture Department Jagadeeshwari A. Nasi informed the meeting that a press invitation would be issued as per protocol. She added that cultural programmes, including devotional music and national songs, will be part of the celebration. Several officials and community representatives attended the meeting and discussed arrangements for smooth conduct of the event. They emphasized coordination between departments to maintain discipline and ensure public participation.

Rajkumar birthday celebrated with simplicity and love

MAGADI

The birth anniversary of legendary Kannada actor Dr. Rajkumar was celebrated in a simple yet meaningful manner at Kalyagata Circle in Magadi town by members of his fan association. The celebration focused on children rather than a grand public event. After offering prayers to the portrait of Dr. Rajkumar, a cake was cut and distributed among children, creating a joyful atmosphere. Due to unavoidable reasons, a large-scale food arrangement could not be organized this year, but sweets were distributed to hundreds of fans who gathered at the venue. Speaking on the occasion, fan association president Basavaraj

said Dr. Rajkumar was not just an actor but a symbol of Kannada identity. He added that the actor's simplicity, love for language and culture continue to inspire people, and following his ideals would be a true tribute. Musician Srinivas said Dr. Rajkumar will always remain in the hearts of people and his films carry valuable life lessons. He highlighted that the actor's roles reflected history, culture and moral values, making them relevant even today. Other members including Shivakumar, T.M. Srinivas, Maranna, Nagesh, Raju, Mahesh and Praveen were present. The event concluded with fans remembering the actor's legacy and pledging to follow his values in daily life.



EDUCATION REGULATION DEMAND

Farmers demand action on coaching centres

DEVADURGA

The Karnataka State Farmers' Association (Chunnappa Poojary faction) has urged authorities to take strict legal action against several unauthorised coaching centres operating in Devadurga taluk. The association submitted a petition to the Field Education Officer on Friday, alleging that many centres are running without proper government permission. In the petition, the leaders said these institutions are claiming to provide quality



education while violating rules and financially exploiting parents. They demanded immediate action against

centres operating illegally in the area. The association listed several coaching centres, includ-

ing Vidyadeepa Coaching Center, Akshara Dama Public School, Global Coaching Center, Sadhana School, Vidyakashi Coaching, Nisarga Coaching, A.I. Coaching Center, Suryodaya Coaching, Royal Kids School, Astro Kids, J.M. Coaching, Vidya-jyothi Coaching, Gyan Gangothri Coaching Center, Adarsh Coaching, and S.K.M. Coaching Center, among others. Farmers' leaders said that unchecked growth of such institutions is affecting both students and parents, and

urged the education department to inspect and regulate all coaching centres immediately. They also stressed that education-related violations should not be ignored and called for proper monitoring mechanisms at the taluk level. Leaders Mahendra Mathri, Hanumantraya Dore, Thimmanna Gowda, Basaiah Swamy, Maruti Nayak, Sugaraddi Gowda, Chandra Nayak, Nagaraj, and others were present during the submission of the petition and supported the demand for strict action.

Hunsur Virajpet road potholes spark local anger

HUNSUR

The road connecting State Highway 90 near Hunsur to National Highway 275 via Virajpet and Madikeri is in a badly damaged condition with large potholes, causing serious problems for daily commuters. According to locals and regular road users, the stretch was in good condition just six months ago, but it has been dug up and poorly filled by

highway authorities, leaving uneven patches of soil and gravel. Heavy traffic movement has made travel difficult, especially for school and college students, farmers, and tourists heading towards Madikeri and Virajpet during the summer season. If monsoon rains begin soon, locals fear the potholes will worsen and increase the risk of accidents on this important route.

QUICK READ

Panchayat Raj Day marked with awards in Yallapur

KARWAR

National Panchayat Raj Day was celebrated at Yallapur Taluk Panchayat under the joint auspices of local bodies and staff associations. Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Rajesh Dhanwadkar highlighted the importance of effective implementation of schemes like MGNREGA, SBM, housing, and NRLM. He praised the efforts of staff in improving tax collection and service delivery at the gram panchayat level. He also spoke about the history and significance of the Panchayat Raj system and urged cooperation among departments for better governance. Association leader Prabhakar Bhat encouraged stress-free and dedicated work. Officials who achieved 100 percent targets were honoured. Several departmental officers and staff attended the event.

Municipal body carries out desilting drives across key localities

Mangaluru

Officials from the Engineering Department of the Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) have initiated desilting activities in multiple areas of the city to clear accumulated silt from drainage systems. The operations covered Jeppinamogaru, Kottara Chowki, and the Vaidyanathanagara neighbourhood in Attavar.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AVADHOOT SHIVASHANKAR TALAWAR S/o SHIVASHANKAR S T, R/o Sindagi Road, Basavarajendra Nagar, Indi, Vijayapura, Karnataka-586209, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AVADHOOT TALAWAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MAHESH D S/o DODDAIAH .K R/o 941, Sri Kamalalaya, BSK 6th Stage, 11th Block, Kengeri, Near Ganakallu (V), Bengaluru, Karnataka-560060, have changed the name of my minor daughter MOULYA .M alias MOULYA M aged 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as AVISHKA TEJA GOWDA.

IN THE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR

Crl Misc.No. 18/2026

PETITIONERS: 1. Sri. Anjinappa S/o late Munivappa Aged about 68 years, 2. Sri. Krishna Murthy S/o late Munivappa Aged about 62 years, 3. Sri. Muni Anjinappa S/o late Munivappa Aged about 51 years, 4. Sri. Narasappa S/o late Munivappa Aged about 45 years All are the Petitioners are Riat Seegehalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. V/S RESPONDENT: The Registrar of Birth & Deaths, The Tahasildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.

DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION

The petitioners are filed this petition for grant of death certificate of father of the petitioners by name Late father of petitioners, by name Sri. Munivappa S/o late Kotappa, who died on 15/07/2005, at Seegehalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

1. Whom so ever if any person who are related or interest or dispute date of death of Sri.Munivappa may hereby directed to appear in the above said court in person or through pleader duly instructed and to be able to answer all material question raising in the petition on the day of 16.05.2026 at 11 AM in said court.

2. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned in the petition, it will be heard and determine ex- parte.

Given under my hand seal of the court on the day of 24.04.2026.

By order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer Pri Civil Judge & JMFC
Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioners: Sri.Santhosh.M, Advocate
Doddaballapur

THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR

CRL.MISC.NO. 1214/2026

Petitioner: Sri,Ramakrishnappa S/o Late Maddurappa, Aged about 40 years, Riat Gundamagere Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. V/s Respondent: The Tahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapur

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his grand father by name SRI, RAMAIAH S/O LATE RANGANNA who died 18-09-1983 at Gundamagere Village, Sasalu Hobali, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. In this regard it is hereby noticed that whoever has interested in this said matter may Apper in person or through advocate duly authorized before court 29.05.2026 at 11 AM in default this will be heard and disposed off Ex-parte order.

Given under my hand seal the court on the 22nd day April 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer Pri Civil Judge & JMFC at Doddaballapur
Advocate: Sri Nataraju BL, Doddaballapur -561203
Dated 01-04-2026.

Festivals reflect culture says Speaker UT Khader

Khader highlighted rural festivals preserving culture, promoting agriculture awareness, equality, tourism growth, and community participation in Mudipu

KONAJE

Speaker UT Khader inaugurated a three-day agricultural fair and Mudipu festival at Mudipu under joint organisation of local committees and trusts. He said festivals are symbols of country's heritage and culture and bring people together in harmony. He praised Dr. Madan Mohan Naik for developing Sri Krishna Dhyana Kendra which has made Mudipu a

centre of peace and tourism. Khader said rural festivals help preserve tradition while also supporting local farmers and culture based economy. He added that society should move towards equality and harmony and parents must teach values along with education to children. He said Mudipu will become a major tourism destination in coming years due to such community festivals. Legislative Council member Manjunath Bhandari



also spoke and appreciated local development efforts and organisation of the festival. The event also included agri-

cultural exhibitions, food stalls and awareness programmes on soil health, pest control and value addition

techniques. Various competitions such as walking race for women and hill run for youth attracted large participation from visitors. Organisers said the festival aims to promote agriculture awareness and cultural unity among rural communities in the region. The event was attended by several leaders, officials, farmers and local residents who appreciated the initiative and called it a meaningful celebration of tradition and de-

velopment. They said such programmes help strengthen rural economy while preserving cultural identity for future generations. Organisers expressed gratitude to all participants and assured that the Mudipu festival will continue to grow in coming years with wider participation and improved facilities for visitors. Authorities said the festival also encourages eco-friendly practices and supports local artisans directly

Collector pushes manuscript survey digital preservation drive

UDUPI

District Collector Swarup T.K. has directed officials to carry out the manuscript survey work under the Jnana Bharatam Mission effectively in the district. He said the initiative aims to preserve ancient handwritten manuscripts and pass knowledge to future generations using modern digital technology. He was speaking at a meeting held at the Manipal Rajatadri District Collector's office regarding implementation of the project.The survey includes collection, preservation, digitisation, translation, and publication of manuscripts across temples, mutts, libraries, and private collections. He said manuscripts found on palm leaves and old documents contain valuable knowledge in science, medicine, literature, and religion. He stressed that preserving them is a shared responsibility of society and institutions, and urged cooperation from all stakeholders.More than 6,000 manuscripts have already been digitised from 40



centres in the district through

DC Swarup T.K. directed Jnana Bharatam manuscript survey, focusing on collecting, digitising, and preserving ancient knowledge from temples, mutts, libraries, and private collections

the ongoing survey process. He also said citizens can participate through the Jnana Bharatam mobile application to upload details and contribute to documentation. A district coordinator has been appointed for guidance and training support, and awareness is being spread in rural areas.

Officials and experts present at the meeting included urban development planners, archaeologists, and local representatives. The Collector instructed departments to ensure timely execution, proper coordination, and protection of fragile manuscripts from damage or loss. He appealed to mutts, temples, libraries, and individuals to actively support the survey mission and safeguard cultural heritage for future generations.The administration said the project will create a permanent digital archive of manuscripts, making them accessible for research, education, and public knowledge across Karnataka and beyond.

Chitradurga DC meeting focused on drought relief, urgent drinking water supply, borewells, and 24/7 disaster response cells

Urgent water crisis meeting held in Chitradurga district

CHITRADURGA

District Disaster Management meeting was held in Chitradurga under the chairmanship of District Collector T. Venkatesh where urgent steps were directed to solve drinking water problems in drought-hit areas of the district. MLA T. Raghumurthy said officials must respond quickly in villages facing drinking water shortage and ensure supply without delay. He said water supply works under Jal Jeevan Mission should be completed and overhead tanks filled immediately so that rural people do not suffer during summer. MLA BG Govindappa suggested renting private borewells in Hosadurga taluk to supply water to affected villages and warned against poor coordination in distribution. MLA KC Virendra Pappi said water should be supplied to nearby areas of Chitradurga city and urged private man-



agement of RO plants for better maintenance. Collector Venkatesh said disaster management cells should function 24 hours in all taluk offices with helplines for public complaints and faster response systems. He said priority must be given to drinking water security and advance planning for summer, noting that 15 areas already face shortage and 69 villages may be affected. Officials informed that RO plants are being repaired, borewells drilled and tanker use reduced compared to previous drought years, ensuring better preparedness this year. Authorities also reviewed

crop damage caused by hailstorm, especially in Hiriyur taluk, and said compensation will be directly credited to farmers' accounts. Officials from various departments including agriculture, horticulture, and rural development attended the meeting and discussed long-term solutions for water and fodder availability. District officials said coordination between departments is being strengthened to ensure timely response during disaster situations. They stressed using private borewells, repairing infrastructure and improving monitoring systems to prevent water crisis escalation.

FAKE PRODUCTS WARNING

Consumer awareness key to social change movement

KALABURAGI

Change in society is possible when consumers become aware of their rights and act responsibly, said Malathi Reshmi, in-charge president of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, on Friday. She was speaking at the World Consumer Rights Day programme organised by the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department along with the Consumer Commission at Aiwan-e-Shahi Guest House in Kalaburagi. She said that consumers should not remain only buyers

but should understand quality, safety and legal rights. Awareness can protect people from harmful and fake products in the market. She warned that adulterated food items are increasing and can seriously affect public health.Malathi Reshmi suggested that people should prefer clean and safe food. She also encouraged families to start small oil production units using groundnut or safflower seeds with government support, which can help in getting pure food at home and create self-employment opportunities.She explained that the Consumer

Protection Act 2019 has strengthened consumer rights and provides simple ways to solve complaints through mediation without going to court. She added that people can also take legal action in cases of medical negligence or unfair trade practices.Advocate Vajinath Jhalki, who spoke at the event, said that consumers must know both their rights and duties. Even small unfair practices should not be ignored. An aware consumer helps build a fair society.Participants also raised concern about lack of proper laboratory facilities in Kala-



buragi, which makes testing food quality difficult. Officials and consumer groups attended the programme and discussed ways to improve

awareness and safety for all citizens. The programme concluded with a call for stronger consumer awareness initiatives

IN THE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR

Crl Misc.No. 18/2026

PETITIONERS: 1. Sri. Anjinappa S/o late Munivappa Aged about 68 years, 2. Sri. Krishna Murthy S/o late Munivappa Aged about 62 years, 3. Sri. Muni Anjinappa S/o late Munivappa Aged about 51 years, 4. Sri. Narasappa S/o late Munivappa Aged about 45 years All are the Petitioners are Riat Seegehalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. V/S RESPONDENT: The Registrar of Birth & Deaths, The Tahasildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.

DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION

The petitioners are filed this petition for grant of death certificate of father of the petitioners by name Late father of petitioners, by name Sri. Munivappa S/o late Kotappa, who died on 15/07/2005, at Seegehalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

1. Whom so ever if any person who are related or interest or dispute date of death of Sri.Munivappa may hereby directed to appear in the above said court in person or through pleader duly instructed and to be able to answer all material question raising in the petition on the day of 16.05.2026 at 11 AM in said court.

2. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned in the petition, it will be heard and determine ex- parte.

Given under my hand seal of the court on the day of 24.04.2026.

By order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer Pri Civil Judge & JMFC
Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioners: Sri.Santhosh.M, Advocate
Doddaballapur

IN THE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR

Crl Misc.No. 24/2026

PETITIONERS: 1. Sri. Anjinappa S/o late Munivappa Aged about 68 years, 2. Sri. Krishna Murthy S/o late Munivappa Aged about 62 years, 3. Sri. Muni Anjinappa S/o late Munivappa Aged about 51 years, 4. Sri. Narasappa S/o late Munivappa Aged about 45 years All are the Petitioners are Riat Seegehalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. V/S RESPONDENT: The Registrar of Birth & Deaths, The Tahasildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.

DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION

The petitioners are filed this petition for grant of death certificate of father of the petitioners by name Late mother of petitioners, by name Smt. Venkamma W/o Munivappa S/o late Kotappa, who died on 05/01/2013, at Seegehalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

1. Whom so ever if any person who are related or interest or dispute date of death of Smt. Venkamma may hereby directed to appear in the above said court in person or through pleader duly instructed and to be able to answer all material question raising in the petition on the day of 16.05.2026 at 11 AM in said court.

2. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned in the petition, it will be heard and determine ex- parte.

Given under my hand seal of the court on the day of 24.04.2026.

By order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer Pri Civil Judge & JMFC
Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioners: Sri.Santhosh.M, Advocate
Doddaballapur

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PREETHI SAMPATH KUMAR (old name), a resident of No 64, PHILOMINA ILLAM, MARIA SEVA SANGHA LAYOUT, TC, PALYA MAINROAD, SANATHAMANAHALLI, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA - 560036 INDIA, have changed my name to PREETHI SAMPATH (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 24-04-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.V

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AKSHAT DURGESH NAYAK S/o DURGESH, R/o 204, Rotson Heritage Apartment, 2ndFloor, Vidyanagar, Behind Amrut Talkies, Hubli, Hubli Vidyanagar, Dharwad, Karnataka-580021, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUBRAMANYAM NAYAK.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMED SHAFIULLA, S/o Mohammed Zakria, resident of No. 4, 1st Main, Lalji Nagar, Rangaswamy Layout, Near ANB Mosque, Bengaluru-560030,have changed my name to SHAFIULLA, vide affidavit dated: 23.04.2026, before Notary V.RAJASHEKHARA, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE

I, SUNIL KUMAR S. S/o. Sila Ram Mahto, Resident of No. 109/13, Mehta Nivas, 25th Cross, 4th Main, Krishna Layout, Hulimavu B G Road, Bengaluru -560076, Karnataka, have changed my name to SUNIL KUMAR, vide affidavit dated: 24.04.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANOOP KUMAR K S, S/o. Kalburgi S S, Resident of BDA Kaniminike Phase 4, Block 2, Flat 604, 6th Floor, Kumbalgod, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru -560074, Karnataka, have changed my name to ANOOP KUMAR, vide affidavit dated: 24.04.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, K LOKESHBABU S/o C KRISHNA REDDY R/o Muthanallur, Bangalore, Karnataka560099, have changed the name of my minor son DHAKSHITH L aged 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as DHAKSHITH L REDDY.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, G SATHISH S/o G. VENKATESWAR REDDY, R/o Flat-008, Srishti Vaibhav, 1st Main Road, LBS Nagar, HAL Post, Vimanapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560017, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GOODREDDY SATHISH.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARUN KUMAR alias K. ARUN KUMAR alias ARUN KUMAR K alias K ARUN KUMAR alias ARUN KUMAR KRISHNAPPA S/o KRISHNAPPA, R/o 52, 11th Cross, 3rd Main, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, Near S B I, Chandra Layout, Bangalore, Karnataka-560040, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AARON MAVERICK GRANT.

THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR

CRL.MISC.NO. 187/2026

Petitioner: Sri,Siddagangaiah S/o Late Maluvalliah Aged about 78 years, Riat # 41 Kannamangala Village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. V/s Respondent: The Tahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapur

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his mother by name SMT. NANJAMMA W/O MALUVALLIAH who died 09.06.1976 at Kannamangala Village, Madhure Hobali, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. In this regard it is hereby noticed that whoever has interested in this said matter may Apper in person or through advocate duly authorized before court 29.05.2026 at 11 AM in default this will be heard and disposed off Ex-parte order.

Given under my hand seal the court on the 22nd day April 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer Pri Civil Judge & JMFC at Doddaballapur
Advocate: Sri Nataraju BL, Doddaballapur -561203
Dated 01-04-2026.

THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR

CRL.MISC.NO. 189/2026

Petitioner: Sri,Siddagangaiah S/o Late Maluvalliah Aged about 78 years, Riat # 41 Kannamangala Village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. V/s Respondent: The Tahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapur

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his father by name MALUVALLIAH S/O SANJEEVAIAH who died 20.03.1986 at Kannamangala Village, Madhure Hobali, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. In this regard it is hereby noticed that whoever has interested in this said matter may Apper in person or through advocate duly authorized before court 29.05.2026 at 11 AM in default this will be heard and disposed off Ex-parte order.

Given under my hand seal the court on the 22nd day April 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer Pri Civil Judge & JMFC at Doddaballapur
Advocate: Sri Nataraju BL, Doddaballapur -561203
Dated 01-04-2026.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KAJAL NARENDRAKUMAR KANSAL D/o NARENDRAKUMAR KANSAL, W/o ARUN KUMAR SINGH, R/o Flat No.D110, Vaishno Signature, No.1, Hoodi Main Road, Anup Layout, A y a p p a N a g a r , Krishnarajapura, Bangalore, Karnataka-560048, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAJAL KANSALSINGH.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHRUTISUHAS KULKARNI W/o ABHILASH K, R/o D-103, Kinnathur Grandeur Apartment, Sannathammanahalli TC Palya Main Road, Opposite to KFC, Anandpura KR Puram Hobli, Krishnarajapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560036, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHRUTI KULKARNI.

NAME CHANGE

I, NAGARATNA RU DRAPPA, W/o. Chethan Ramachandra, Resident of No. 26, Anchepalya Main Road, Anjaneya Swamy Layout, Totadaguddadahalli, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru -560073, Karnataka, have changed my name to NAGARATHNA RU DRAPPA, vide affidavit dated: 24.04.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

QUICK READ

Gehlot criticises Rajasthan govt over delay in conducting local body polls

Jaipur
Senior Congress leader and former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot extended greetings on National Panchayati Raj Day while raising concerns over delays in local body elections in the state. Ashok Gehlot conveyed his wishes to citizens on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day, highlighting the importance of grassroots democracy and local self-governance. He emphasized that Panchayati Raj institutions play a vital role in empowering rural communities and ensuring inclusive development across the country. At the same time, Gehlot strongly criticised the current administration in Rajasthan for failing to conduct local body elections in a timely manner. He stated that such delays weaken democratic processes at the grassroots level and deprive citizens of their right to elect representatives in local governance bodies.

Delhi HC rejects police plea to cancel Ishrat Jahan's bail

New Delhi
The Delhi High Court on Friday declined to interfere with the bail granted to former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan in a case linked to the alleged larger conspiracy behind the 2020 North-East Delhi riots. Dismissing an appeal filed by the Delhi Police seeking cancellation of bail, a Division Bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Ravinder Dudeja observed that more than four years have elapsed since Jahan was granted relief, and there were no allegations of breach of conditions imposed by the trial court. Jahan was arrested in February 2020 in connection with a larger conspiracy case linked to the riots, registered under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Indian Penal Code, the Arms Act, and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

‘RTC driver’s self-immolation is murder by Revanth Reddy govt’

HYDERABAD
Opposition Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) and BJP in Telangana have termed the suicide of a Road Transport Corporation driver as a murder by the state government. They blamed the government for the ongoing strike by the RTC employees over long-pending demands. Shankar Goud, a driver of RTC, set himself ablaze in Warangal district on Thursday during the protest by striking employees. He succumbed while undergoing treatment at Apollo DRDO Hospital in Hyderabad early Friday morning. BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao said that it was not a suicide but a murder committed by the Revanth Reddy government. Shankar Goud took the extreme step of ending his life solely because he could no longer bear the grave injustice that CM Revanth Reddy has been inflicting upon RTC workers for the past two and a half years. KTR said in a post on ‘X’. He termed as ‘utterly heinous act’ the denial of permission by authorities to take Shankar Goud’s mortal re-

POSTAL VOTING DISPUTE

Kerala H Seeks ECI Clarification on Postal Voting Access

KOCHI
The Kerala High Court has directed the Election Commission of India to clarify whether additional arrangements can be made for voters who missed casting their postal ballots, raising concerns about electoral fairness and accessibility. In a significant development, the Kerala High Court on Friday asked the Election Commission of India to present its position on enabling additional facilities for voters who were unable to use postal ballots in the recently conclud-



BJP Confident of Big Lead in First Phase of West Bengal Polls

The Bharatiya Janata Party has expressed strong confidence in securing a commanding lead in the first phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah projecting a decisive victory.

KOLKATA
Senior leader Amit Shah on Friday stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party is likely to win at least 110 out of the 152 constituencies that went to polls in the first phase held on April 23. He said the estimate was based on an extensive overnight analysis conducted by party leaders and strategists following the conclusion of voting. Addressing media persons, Shah asserted that the party is on track to form the next government in West Bengal with a clear majority. He thanked voters for their participation and described the electoral

ACB Intensifies Probe in DA Case of Suspended Andhra Official

VIJAYAWADA
Officials from the Anti-Corruption Bureau Andhra Pradesh on Friday resumed interrogation of Kalingiri Shanti, a suspended Assistant Commissioner, after securing her police custody for two days. She was brought from Vijayawada district jail to the Vijayawada Government General Hospital for a mandatory medical examination before questioning began. This marks the second round of custodial interrogation after a court previously allowed investigators to question her earlier in April. The agency approached the court again, alleging that Shanti had not cooperated during the initial phase of the probe, prompting fresh custody approval. Shanti was arrested on April 7 following extensive raids at multiple locations linked to her. She is currently lodged in jail, with her judicial custody extended beyond the initial period. During court proceedings, she also filed a petition seeking permission to meet her young child, with the matter taken up for consideration separately. According to investiga-

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process as a shift from fear to hope, suggesting that public sentiment is favoring change. He also acknowledged the role of security personnel, election officials, and the state police in ensuring a peaceful voting process. According to Shah, the absence of election-related fatalities in the first phase marked a significant improvement compared to past elections in the state. In a pointed political remark, Shah indicated that the next Chief Minister of West Bengal would be a local leader deeply rooted in the state’s culture and language. Referring indirectly to incumbent Chief Minister Mamata Ba-

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nerjee, he said her successor would be a true Bengali, educated in the Bengali medium and closely connected to the people of the state. Looking ahead to the sec-

ECI suspends police officer for ‘negligence’ in duty

Kolkata
The Election Commission of India (ECI) has suspended Hingalganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sandeep Sarkar in West Bengal’s North 24 Parganas district, said officials on Friday. The order issued on Thursday night sought his immediate removal from duty. However, the reason for this suspension was not clear in the instructions. According to the Commission officials, this order pertains to negligence in duty. State Chief Secretary Dushyant Nariala has been asked to take action as per the Commission’s instructions. The Commission has ordered that the responsibility be immediately given to someone else in his place.

Being boatman for PM’s ride was a great experience: Gouranga Biswas

KOLKATA
For Gouranga Biswas, a local boatman, Friday morning turned into an unforgettable experience as he ferried Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a brief boat ride. Biswas described the moment as fascinating and unlike anything he had experienced before, as he rowed the boat carrying Narendra Modi. The interaction, though brief, left a lasting impression on the boatman, who said he felt both excited and honored to be part of the Prime Minister’s visit. According to Biswas, the ride was smooth and calm, allowing him to focus on his task despite the high-profile passenger on board. He noted that the presence of security personnel and officials did not distract him from rowing, although the significance of the moment was not lost on him.

Delhi HC closes plea after police assure protection to victim’s family

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court has disposed of a petition filed by the family of a youth killed during Holi-related violence in Uttam Nagar, after noting police assurances of continuous protection. A Bench led by Justice Girish Kathpalia recorded submissions that the local police are closely monitoring the situation and have taken extensive steps to safeguard the family and witnesses. Authorities informed the court that security has been intensified around the residence, with CCTV surveillance, police pickets in nearby blocks, and a dedicated team stationed outside the house. The court also directed the SHO to share his personal contact number with the petitioners for immediate assistance. Regarding objectionable social media content, police said over 250 posts had been removed. The court instructed prompt action on any further flagged content, while investigations into alleged threats continue under an ACP-level officer.

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Tejashwi Yadav Targets Bihar Govt Over Finances and Political Instability

PATNA
During the heated discussion in the Bihar Legislative Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav accused the administration led by Samrat Choudhary of pushing the state into a severe financial crisis. He claimed that Bihar is burdened with a debt of nearly Rs 4 lakh crore and that the state treasury is under immense pressure, raising doubts about the government’s ability to fund development projects. Tejashwi further alleged that even basic financial obligations, such as pension payments, are facing constraints, indicating deeper structural issues in governance. He questioned how the government could promise growth and infrastructure development when, according to him, existing commitments are already difficult to meet. Taking aim at the ruling alliance, he dismissed the popular political slogan associated with Nitish Kumar as misleading. He argued that the lack of a clearly declared chief ministerial candidate by the Bharatiya Janata Party has contributed to uncertainty and weakened governance in the state. Describing Bihar as a political laboratory, Tejashwi pointed to frequent changes in government over recent years as evidence of instability. He claimed that despite long periods in power, the National Democratic Alliance has failed to ensure consistent governance or deliver long-term stability. In a sharp personal remark, he suggested that internal dissent within the ruling coalition could threaten the Chief Minister’s position, hinting at underlying tensions among alliance partners. He also alleged that several leaders in the government were originally from other political parties, contributing to ideological inconsistency. Citing leaders such as Vijay Kumar Sinha, Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, and Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Tejashwi argued that many members of the ruling camp had switched affiliations over time. He further invoked Lalu Prasad Yadav to suggest that political influences from past alliances continue to shape current leadership dynamics. The remarks intensified the political debate in Bihar, highlighting sharp divisions between the opposition and the ruling coalition as the state navigates both financial and governance challenges.



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga
Ph: 08182-222943 Email ID: spdivision@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
No. EE/PWD, Special Division, Shimoga IFT No. 07/2026-27 Dtd. 22-04-2026

1. The Executive Engineer Public works Department Special Division, Shimoga invites **Expression of interest for Selection of Consultant for providing Transaction Advisory Services for Development of Land Parcels (3 Properties) in Shivamogga, Davanagere and Puttur on PPP Mode PWD/2025-26/SE0329/CALL-3** from eligible bidders through KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

2. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka from **Date: 22.04.2026 to 21.05.2026**

3. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal on **or before 17.30 hours on 21-05-2026** The opening of the tenders will be as per the KPP Portal guidelines.

4. Pre-bid meeting for the above will be held on **18.05.2026 at 11.30 am** at the O/o the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga.

5. The bidders who rejected in the tender, As per KTCP act they should go appeal in the KPP portal only. Written appeals are not accepted.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department,
Special Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/SMG/No.115-04/ Zenkar/2026-27



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
O/o Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor,
Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bengaluru 560070.
Phone No: 080-26716046 Website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/JE-1/03/2026-27 Dated: 23.04.2026

KPPP Tender Notice (Two Cover System)
SHORT TERM SERVICE TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For **Service tender for Housekeeping** details can be obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before Dated: **30.04.2026** upto 4.00 pm. Further details can be obtained from web site at <http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in> or contact this office during office working hours

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/345/SSC/2026-27

Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Niyamitha
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kabini Reservoir Division, Kabini Colony, H.D Kote Taluk, Mysore District-571116/ Fax: 08228-268378
E-mail: xekrdhdk@yahoo.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO:02/2026-27, Dt: 21-04-2026.
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Item rates tenders are invited on KPPP basis on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from eligible registered contractors for a total number of 04 works **(2 Regular & 2 DRIP-II Works)** with a minimum value of Rs.21.03 Lakh and maximum value of Rs.351.17 Lakhs. The contractors can have access/download KPPP tender document from **21-04-2026** onwards and last date to submit the filled tender document is **05-05-2026** till 5.00 PM. Technical bid will be opened on **06-05-2026** at 5.00 PM onwards and Financial bid will be opened after approval of the Technical Bid. All the information is available on KPPP web-site address <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp>. Additional information can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DDMYS/090/KSMCA/080/2026-27





Vijay hails 85% voter turnout in Tamil Nadu polls

Actor-turned-politician Vijay, chief of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, on Friday expressed gratitude to the people of Tamil Nadu for the record-breaking 85 per cent voter turnout in the recently concluded Assembly elections

CHENNAI

In a statement shared on the social media platform X, Vijay said the massive turnout had shattered long-standing perceptions that politics is driven only by powerful or highly experienced individuals. He credited ordinary citizens for redefining the political landscape through their active participation. He described the unprecedented participation as a defining moment in the state's democratic history.

The 2026 Assembly elections, conducted in a single phase across all 234 constituencies, recorded the highest voter turnout in Tamil Nadu since Independence. According to Vijay, the surge in par-

ticipation was largely driven by youth and women voters, who turned out in large numbers across the state.

Calling the turnout unprecedented, Vijay remarked that Tamil Nadu had never witnessed such high participation before. He described April 23, 2026, as a historic day that demonstrated why elections are often referred to as a festival of democracy. He noted that families, including children, visited polling booths with enthusiasm comparable to festive gatherings, reflecting the vibrancy of the democratic process.

The TVK leader also extended special appreciation to first-time voters and individuals who travelled from other states and even abroad to cast



their votes. He emphasized that the commitment shown by citizens highlights the strength of democratic values and deserves widespread recognition.

Vijay further acknowledged the efforts of his party's grassroots workers, including

booth agents and administrators, who faced criticism during the campaign. He stated that the overwhelming voter response served as a fitting answer to those who had questioned the political awareness and capability of his party cadre.

Looking ahead, Vijay expressed confidence in his party's prospects as it faces a triangular contest against the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-led alliance and the Opposition All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-aligned National Democratic Alliance.

He concluded his statement on an optimistic note, expressing hope for a positive outcome and asserting that victory was within reach.

Amid growing concern over the devastating Mundathikode fireworks tragedy linked to the famed Thrissur Pooram, Kerala Devaswoms Minister V. N. Vasavan on Friday announced a detailed investigation into the incident, including whether excessive explosive materials were stored at the site

Probe Ordered into Mundathikode Fireworks Tragedy as Death Toll Rises to 14

THRISSUR

Recovery operations are ongoing, with authorities continuing to find human remains in areas far beyond the blast location. The minister stated that the government will hold comprehensive discussions to prevent such tragedies in the future, including reconsidering the nature of fireworks displays. Emphasizing safety and global standards, Vasavan suggested that fireworks should focus more on visual appeal rather than loud noise, drawing comparisons with international events such as the Olympics. In light of the tragedy, this year's Thrissur Pooram fireworks display has already been cancelled.

Providing an update on casualties, officials confirmed that 14 people have lost their lives in the incident. Initially,

10 victims were identified, with one additional confirmation later. However, the recovery of 29 sets of human remains has complicated the identification process, prompting the use of DNA testing. Four individuals are still reported missing, while four injured persons remain in critical condition. Those with minor injuries have since been discharged.

Authorities revealed that a total of 38 people were present at the site during the explosion, although official records verifying the exact number were destroyed in the blast. The intensity of the explosion is evident from the widespread dispersal of body parts, with search teams discovering remains in distant locations. Portions of a head were found approximately 400 metres away, while parts of a hand

were recovered nearly a kilometre from the site.

Officials suspect that stray animals may have contributed to the scattering of remains. Additional fragments have been located in nearby agricultural fields, and search operations are continuing with the assistance of trained cadaver dogs. Police teams, along with local residents, are combing nearby residential areas to ensure no remains are left undiscovered.

To speed up identification, a mobile DNA testing unit has been deployed at Thrissur Medical College, where samples from all recovered remains have been sent for analysis. Authorities expect initial DNA results to arrive soon, which will be crucial in confirming the identities of victims and understanding the full scale of the tragedy.

SC Orders Reinstatement of Gujarat Judicial Officer with Full Benefits

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has directed the reinstatement of a Gujarat judicial officer with all consequential benefits, after setting aside a disciplinary action that sought to subject her to a de novo inquiry.

A bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe held that the order initiating a fresh inquiry against Chandni Prateek Sharma was contrary to the governing service rules, and consequently quashed the Gujarat High Court's judgment, which had upheld the action.

The respondents are directed to reinstate the appellant and to grant her all consequential benefits, the apex court or-

dered while allowing the appeal.

Sharma, who joined the Gujarat State Judicial Service in 2012 and was promoted to Senior Civil Judge in 2018, had been placed under suspension in February 2020 following complaints alleging misconduct, including habitual absenteeism and procedural irregularities. An inquiry officer, after examining 21 witnesses, had found only one charge proved while exonerating her of the remaining allegations.

However, the disciplinary authority disagreed with the findings and ordered a de novo inquiry after issuing a show cause notice.

The Gujarat High Court, in its September 26, 2024 judg-

ment, had upheld the decision, observing that the disciplinary authority had recorded reasons for ordering a fresh inquiry.

Setting aside this view, the Supreme Court clarified that Rule 10 of the Gujarat Civil Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1971 permits only a further inquiry and not a fresh or de novo inquiry.

The expression 'further inquiry'... does not mean a fresh or a de novo inquiry but only a further inquiry, the Justice Narasimha-led Bench observed.

Holding that the initiation of a de novo inquiry was legally unsustainable, the top court said the Gujarat High Court failed to appreciate the settled legal position on the issue.

Choudhary backs NDA leadership, defends prohibition in Bihar Assembly

PATNA

His remarks underscored the ruling alliance's focus on stability, continuity, and social reform amid sharp criticism from the opposition. Addressing the Assembly, Vijay Kumar Choudhary highlighted the political developments following the 2020 Bihar elections, noting that the Bharatiya Janata Party, despite emerging as the numerically stronger party, chose to support Nitish Kumar as Chief Minister. He described this move as a reflection of the maturity and unity within the National Democratic Alliance, emphasizing that the alliance has consistently prioritized collective leadership over individual ambitions.

Choudhary stated that the current support for Samrat Choudhary's leadership follows the same principle, ensuring continuity and stability in governance. He added that the people of Bihar have placed their trust in the NDA for nearly two decades, and the emergence of a new generation of leaders marks a natural progression in the state's political landscape.

A significant portion of his



speech focused on Bihar's liquor prohibition policy, introduced during Nitish Kumar's tenure. Choudhary made it clear that the law is non-negotiable and will neither be repealed nor diluted. Instead, he asserted that enforcement would be strengthened further to ensure its effectiveness.

Defending the policy against opposition criticism, he argued that ongoing arrests and penalties against violators demonstrate that the law is functioning as intended. He described prohibition not merely as a legal framework but as a broader social reform initiative aimed at improving societal behavior and reducing the harmful effects of alcohol consumption.

The Deputy Chief Minister also took aim at Leader of

During a heated confidence vote debate in the Bihar Legislative Assembly, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary strongly defended the leadership of Samrat Choudhary and reiterated the government's firm commitment to the state's liquor prohibition policy

Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, questioning his current stance on the prohibition law. Choudhary pointed out that Tejashwi Yadav had served as Deputy Chief Minister when the policy was implemented, suggesting that his present criticism reflects inconsistency in the opposition's position.

Despite the government's strong defence, the prohibition law continues to remain a contentious issue in Bihar politics, highlighting a key divide between the ruling alliance and the opposition.

V-P Radhakrishnan to Attend 35th Convocation of Rajasthan University Today

JAIPUR

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan will visit Jaipur on Saturday to attend the 35th Convocation of the University of Rajasthan and other events, an official said on Friday.

Apart from attending the Convocation, the Vice-President will also attend the 23rd Cancer Survivors' Day, organised by Bhagwan Mahaveer Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Jaipur, said the official in a statement.

Earlier on Thursday, Vice-President Radhakrishnan chaired the sixth convocation ceremony of AIIMS Rishikesh in Uttarakhand and reminded them that convocation marks not only the culmination of years of disciplined effort and sacrifice but also the beginning of a greater responsibility towards society and the nation.

He urged the graduates to embrace their professional duties with dedication and a sense of purpose.

The Vice-President emphasised that healthcare is a public trust and that medical professionals play a vital role in nation-building. He urged the young graduates to contribute through preventive care, rural outreach, research, and innovation, and to remain guided by the values of empathy, integrity, and service.

Highlighting the spiritual and cultural significance of Rishikesh as a global centre of reflection and healing, and a gateway to the Himalayas, Vice-President Radhakrishnan noted that such a setting adds deeper meaning to the solemnity of the convocation ceremony.

Reflecting on the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Vice-President added that In-

dia demonstrated resilience, innovation, and commitment under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He highlighted India's large-scale vaccination drive, noting that more than 140 crore citizens received free vaccines, ensuring equitable access to healthcare, especially in underserved regions.

He emphasised that Indian scientists developed vaccines not for profit, but for the welfare of humanity.

The Vice-President also underlined India's global responsibility through its 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative, under which vaccines were supplied to more than 100 countries.

He said this initiative reflected the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World is One Family) and reinforced India's role as a compassionate and responsible global partner.

Security Guard Killed During Temple Robbery Bid in Ranchi; BJP Slams J'khand Govt

RANCHI

Unidentified criminals ransacked a prominent temple in Ranchi with an attempt to commit robbery, but the watchful security guard foiled their plans at the cost of his life, a senior police official said on Friday.

The 55-year-old security guard was bludgeoned to death after being attacked by the unknown miscreants. The incident happened at Jagannathpur Temple on Thursday night, when the criminals sneaked into the temple with an intent to plunder the temple's wealth.

The police have launched a serious investigation into the entire matter. Ranchi Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rakesh Ranjan told the

media that initial investigations found that the miscreants entered the temple through an unlocked gate.

The miscreants stole cash from temple's donation box after attacking the security guard.

The incident is being investigated over both purposes of robbery and murder.

The shocking incident of robbery at the city's prestigious temple has raised fresh alarm over the law and order situation, besides bringing focus back on the security gaps in police administration.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has questioned the state government over 'temple robbery' in an upscale locality, while holding it accountable for rising crime incidents.

BJP spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo termed the incident as deeply tragic and said that the occurrence of such an incident in such a sensitive area is a matter of grave concern.

Pointing out that the State Assembly is situated less than a kilometre away from the temple, making the vicinity a high-security zone, Shahdeo remarked that if a murder can take place even within a high-security zone and the police fail to catch the culprits, the situation is alarming and appalling.

He appealed to the state government to take measures to prevent Jharkhand from becoming a hotbed of crime.

The deceased temple security guard has been identified as Birsu Munda.

PANCHAYATI RAJ LEGACY

Congress highlights Panchayati Raj legacy

NEW DELHI

The Congress party on Friday commemorated National Panchayati Raj Day by revisiting key legislative milestones that strengthened grassroots democracy in India. Senior party leader and Member of Parliament Jairam Ramesh credited former Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi and Manmohan Singh for their pivotal contributions in empowering village-level governance through constitutional and policy reforms.

Speaking on the occasion,

Jairam Ramesh emphasized the historic importance of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, which came into effect in 1993. He attributed the landmark reform entirely to the vision and determination of Rajiv Gandhi, noting that the amendment fundamentally transformed local self-governance in rural India. According to Ramesh, it was Gandhi's persistence that ensured the inclusion of a provision reserving one-third of seats in Panchayati Raj institutions for women, including those from Scheduled Caste and Sched-

uled Tribe communities.

He pointed out that this move has had a lasting impact, with nearly 32 lakh elected representatives currently serving in Panchayati Raj institutions across the country, of whom around 15 lakh are women. Ramesh also recalled that the original version of the amendment had been introduced in 1989 but failed to pass in the Rajya Sabha due to opposition from the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Highlighting further developments, Ramesh praised the tenure of Manmohan Singh



for institutionalizing and strengthening the Panchayati Raj framework. He noted that the Ministry of Panchayati Raj was established in May 2004 under Singh's leadership, marking a significant

step toward decentralization. Additionally, he cited the launch of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2006 as a transformative policy that placed village councils at the center of planning and implementation of rural employment schemes.

Ramesh explained that the 73rd Amendment introduced a comprehensive set of provisions under Articles 243-A to 243-O of the Constitution, granting extensive powers to local governing bodies. These provisions laid the foundation

for a robust system of grassroots democracy.

Providing current figures, he stated that India now has approximately 2.6 lakh gram panchayats, over 6,700 intermediate panchayats, and 673 district-level bodies. In a subtle political remark, Ramesh stressed that strengthening local governance institutions remains more urgent than merely expanding the size of the national legislature, underscoring the enduring relevance of Panchayati Raj in India's democratic framework.

QUICK READ

No US-Iran peace talks in sight

ISLAMABAD

For nearly a week, Pakistan's capital has been waiting for peace talks between the U.S. and Iran to take place there, and although there is no sign the two sides will meet, large parts of the city remain sealed off by authorities. Key roads leading into Islamabad are shut down and a strict security cordon envelops the administrative centre, the so-called Red Zone. In the adjacent Blue Area, cafes have run out of fruit, markets are deserted and with no service at bus terminals, weekend commuters are struggling to get home. Government officials say the measures are not ending any time soon.

Trump, aides chase vote-rigging claims

WASHINGTON

Late last summer, Kurt Olsen's patience had run out. U.S. President Donald Trump had enlisted Olsen months earlier to seek evidence of foreign interference in U.S. elections and re-investigate Trump's 2020 loss. A prominent election-denier, attorney and former Navy SEAL, Olsen aimed to prove the discredited conspiracy theory that Dominion Voting Systems machines had been infected with malicious code controlled by Venezuela, according to three sources familiar with the matter. But a secret federal investigation of Puerto Rico's Dominion machines had found no trace of hacking after the administration seized the machines in May and directed a cybersecurity contractor to scour them for months.

War, drought, aid shortfall to fuel hunger in 2026: Report

ROME

Conflict, drought and shrinking aid will keep global hunger at critical levels in 2026, with food insecurity expected to worsen in some of the world's most fragile countries, according to the 2026 Global Report on Food Crises. The 10th edition of the hunger monitor, published by a coalition of development and humanitarian organisations, said that acute hunger had doubled over the past decade with two famines declared last year for the first time in the report's history - in Gaza and Sudan. In total, 266 million people in 47 countries and territories faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2025, while 1.4 million people faced catastrophic conditions in parts of Haiti, Mali, Gaza, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.

Israel–Lebanon Ceasefire Extended Amid Rising Gulf Tensions

DUBAI

The agreement to prolong the ceasefire was reached during a meeting brokered by Donald Trump, who emphasized that he was willing to wait for what he described as the best deal to bring a lasting end to the ongoing conflict with Iran. The ceasefire extension comes amid continued hostilities between Israel and the Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah, which has been a major obstacle in resolving the wider regional crisis now entering its eighth week. The conflict has also been complicated by Iran's nuclear ambitions and its strategic control over the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping corridor through which nearly 20 percent of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas supplies pass. Despite mounting pressure, Trump reiterated that the United States holds a strong position in the ongoing naval standoff and dismissed Iranian threats as exaggerated. His remarks came shortly after Iran showcased its control over the strait, raising concerns about global energy supplies.

Pentagon Weighs Measures Against NATO Allies Over Iran War Support

An internal Pentagon communication has revealed that the United States is considering a range of policy options to respond to NATO allies it believes did not adequately support its operations

WASHINGTON

According to a U.S. official familiar with the matter, the internal email outlines potential steps to punish certain members of the NATO for what Washington perceives as insufficient cooperation during the war. Among the measures discussed are suspending Spain from key alliance roles and reassessing the U.S. stance on Britain's claim over the Falkland Islands. The document reportedly reflects frustration within the Pentagon over some allies' reluctance or refusal to provide access, basing, and over-flight rights, commonly referred to as ABO. These permissions are considered critical for conducting military operations, particularly in regions of strategic importance. The official noted that the email described ABO as the absolute baseline expectation within NATO, emphasizing that the issue has been discussed at senior levels within the U.S. defense establishment. One of the more striking options proposed involves sidelining difficult member



countries by excluding them from prestigious or influential NATO positions. However, the feasibility of more severe measures remains uncertain. A NATO official clarified that the alliance's founding treaty does not include any provision for suspending member states, raising questions about how such actions could be implemented. The developments come amid heightened tensions following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global shipping route disrupted after the outbreak of hostilities on February 28. The United States has urged its allies to contribute naval support to secure the passage, but participation has reportedly been limited. Donald Trump has openly criticized NATO

partners for what he views as a lack of commitment, even suggesting that Washington could reconsider its membership in the alliance. In a recent interview, he questioned the value of continued U.S. participation, signaling growing dissatisfaction within his administration. Despite the strong rhetoric, the Pentagon email does not recommend withdrawing from NATO or closing U.S. military bases in Europe. Instead, it presents a range of strategic options aimed at pressuring allies to align more closely with U.S. military objectives. As discussions continue, the situation underscores evolving strains within the alliance during a period of global instability.

Dozens of Thai opposition figures to go on trial over bid to amend royal insult law

BANGKOK

Thailand's Supreme Court said on Friday that 44 current and former opposition lawmakers will go on trial over an attempt to amend a law that protects the monarchy from criticism, in another blow to the country's progressive movement. The 44 facing trial from June 30 for alleged ethics violations include serving and former lawmakers of the People's Party and its disbanded predecessor Move Forward, who each face the maximum penalty of a lifetime ban from office if found guilty. Hundreds of people have been prosecuted in recent years under Thailand's lese-majeste law, which is among the strictest of its kind in the world, with punishments of up to 15 years in prison for offenders. On the back of massive anti-government, youth-led street protests that included calls for the reform of the monarchy, Move Forward tried to amend the law in parliament in 2021, arguing it had been misused to stifle political opponents. Thailand's constitution enshrines the king in a position of revered worship and royalists regard the palace as sacrosanct. The liberal agenda of the People's Party and its forerunners created powerful enemies among Thailand's conservative establishment, with the movement on the wrong end of a multiple court rulings, including two party dissolutions. The 44 include People's Party leader Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut, four deputy leaders and former Move Forward leader Pita Limjaroenrat, who is currently serving a 10-year ban from politics. We will pursue our legal fight in the Supreme Court to the fullest extent, in order to defend the legitimacy of the representative mandate in a parliamentary democracy, People's Party leader Natthaphong told a press conference on Friday. The progressive movement's hugely popularity among young and urban Thais swept Move Forward to victory in the 2023 general election, but it was blocked from forming a government by lawmakers allied with the royalist military. A court in 2024 ruled that Move Forward's attempt to reform the royal insult law was unconstitutional and undermined the democratic system.

PUTIN RETURNS 'IRON FELIX' DZERZHINSKY TO RUSSIA'S SPY SCHOOL

MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin has ordered Russia's Federal Security Service's spy academy to carry the name of Iron Felix Dzerzhinsky, the founder of the Soviet secret police and architect of the Red Terror which followed the 1917 revolution. Dzerzhinsky, a Polish noble-turned-revolutionary who helped lay the foundations of the repressive system over which Josef Stalin was to preside, is reviled by dissidents but is a hero to the spies who rule in Putin's Russia. After the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall, a cheering crowd toppled a statue of him in the Polish capital Warsaw. As the Soviet Union itself crumbled in 1991, a monument to Dzerzhinsky outside the KGB headquarters on Lubyanka Square in Moscow was felled by jubilant demonstrators. But Iron Felix is back at the FSB spy school less than two years after making a comeback to the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR). In a decree published by the Kremlin this week, Putin ordered the FSB's Academy, which used to be known as the KGB's Higher School, to be known henceforth as the F.E. Dzerzhinsky Academy of the Federal Security Service. Putin, himself a former KGB lieutenant colonel, said the decision had been taken because of Dzerzhinsky's outstanding contribution to ensuring state security, according to the decree. The KGB's Higher School was formally known as the F.E. Dzerzhinsky Higher School of the KGB from 1962-1993, according to Russian media. Putin was a student there in 1979 and the early 1980s, according to an official biography. The FSB academy in southern Moscow has faculties including foreign languages, information security, counterintelligence, operational support, applied mathematics, and special equipment. For some Russians, the return of Dzerzhinsky is an indicator of the repression they say prevails in wartime Russia - and the extent to which the country has abandoned its post-Soviet pivot towards the West. As one of Vladimir Lenin's most loyal lieutenants, Dzerzhinsky helped establish the revolutionary government using ruthless Leninist tactics: the brutal persecution of opponents - or anyone even suspected of being an opponent.



Northern Japan wildfires prompt mass evacuations as flames spread

TOKYO

Two rapidly spreading forest fires in northern Japan have forced authorities to expand evacuation orders, with more than 3,000 residents urged to leave their homes as firefighters struggle to contain the blazes. The fires, which erupted on afternoon in Iwate Prefecture, continue to move toward nearby residential areas, raising concerns over public safety and property damage. The first blaze began in a mountainous region, where dry conditions and strong winds have contributed to its rapid spread. A second fire broke out roughly two hours later, about 10 kilometers away near Otsuchi, compounding the challenge for emergency responders. Local authorities have issued evacuation orders affecting more than 3,000 people as a precautionary measure. Residents in high-risk zones have been advised to leave immediately, while emergency shelters have been set up to accommodate those displaced. Officials warned that shifting wind patterns could further accelerate the fires, making containment efforts more difficult. Firefighting teams have been deployed across both locations, working continuously to control the flames. However, the rugged terrain and limited accessibility in mountainous areas have hindered operations. Helicopters and ground crews are being used in coordination, but progress has been slow as the fires remain uncontained.



US MARIJUANA POLICY SHIFT

U.S. Eases Marijuana Restrictions in Drug Policy Shift

WASHINGTON

The United States has announced a significant shift in its drug policy, with federal authorities moving to relax restrictions on marijuana and reclassify it as a less dangerous substance, marking one of the most substantial changes in decades. The U.S. Department of Justice confirmed that it will immediately begin loosening restrictions on certain marijuana products while accelerating efforts to reclassify the drug under federal law. The decision stops short of full legalization but is expected to have wide-ranging implications for the rapidly growing cannabis industry, currently valued at approximately \$47 billion. Under existing rules, marijuana has been categorized alongside highly addictive substances such as heroin. The proposed changes would shift state-regulated medical marijuana products into a less restrictive classification, similar to substances with low to moderate abuse potential, including some prescription painkillers and treatments like ketamine. Products approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will also fall under the new category. Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche stated that the federal government plans to fast-track broader reforms aimed at reclassifying all uses of cannabis. According to officials, the move is expected to reduce regulatory barriers, facilitate scientific research, and ease financial constraints for businesses operating in the sector. The policy shift follows a directive issued in December by Donald Trump, instructing the Justice Department to review and relax marijuana regulations. The administration argues that aligning federal policy with evolving medical research and state-level practices will improve patient care and provide doctors with more reliable data.



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Expert David Williamson leads a high-intensity goalkeeping camp in Bengaluru to fortify the Indian Women's Hockey Team's defense.

Special goalkeeping camp sharpens Indian women's defense

‘India aims for global sporting glory soon’

BUDGAM

India is lacing up its boots for a massive leap on the world stage. Sports Minister Man-sukh Mandaviya announced a bold vision to transform the country into a global athletic powerhouse over the next two decades.

The Minister shared these ambitious goals while visiting Budgam in central Kashmir, where he inaugurated a new 30 bedded hospital. He stated that under the current government's leadership, the nation is building a clear path to success. The roadmap is simple

but grand, India aims to be among the top ten sporting nations by 2036 and break into the elite top five by 2047, coinciding with the centenary of the country's independence.

Mandaviya highlighted that the secret to this shift lies in better governance and a more organized support system for athletes. By streamlining how sports are managed, the government is opening doors for young talent to showcase their skills on international platforms. The focus has shifted toward creating a structured environment where a teenager with a dream can actually reach the podium.

“We are committed to providing every possible opportunity to our youth,” Mandaviya said. He expressed deep confidence that the next ten years will be a turning point for Indian sports. This initiative isn't just about winning medals, it is about fostering a culture of excellence and ensuring that the Indian flag flies high at every major tournament.



Global rights groups warn world cup travelers

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Human rights advocates have issued an urgent travel advisory for international fans, players, and journalists planning to visit the United States for the 2026 World Cup. The warning comes as the country prepares for the world's largest sporting event amid a tense political climate and strict new border policies. A coalition of over 120 organizations, including the ACLU and the NAACP, signed the advisory. They warn that visitors could face "arbitrary detention" or "racial profiling" due to an aggressive immigration crackdown by the Trump administration. The groups expressed specific concern for travelers from immigrant communities, racial minorities, and the LGBTQ+ community, calling them the "most vulnerable to serious harm." The advisory

suggests that international visitors carry an emergency plan and take precautions, such as securing electronic devices against invasive searches. Rights groups claim that despite the tournament being less than two months away, neither the U.S. government nor FIFA has provided sufficient guarantees for the safety and freedom of travelers. FIFA responded by stating it is "committed to respecting all recognized human rights" and has established a special advisory group to monitor the situation. The 2026 World Cup, hosted across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, begins in June and features 104 matches. Eleven American cities are set to host games, with the final taking place at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. Advocates are now urging FIFA to use its significant leverage to pressure federal authorities for policy changes.

**BENGALURU**

The Indian Women's Hockey Team has launched a high intensity goalkeeping camp at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in Bengaluru. Running from April 22 to May 2, the camp is led by renowned international expert David Williamson. This specialized training aims to fortify India's defense as the team prepares for a demanding international schedule, including the Nations Cup in June and the upcoming Asian Games. Under the guidance of Williamson and Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne, star veteran Savita is training alongside promising keepers Bansari Solanki, Bichu Devi Kharibam, and Madhuri Kindo. Marijne noted that the unit is building on strong momentum from their recent tour of Argentina. By involv-

ing junior players in the senior camp, the coaching staff is ensuring a seamless transition for the next generation of Indian talent. The initiative is supported by the Coca Cola India Foundation, which has become a key partner in developing the sport at all levels. Savita expressed her excitement, stating that such professional backing gives younger athletes the confidence to pursue hockey as a career. The foundation also recently supported the 16th Sub Junior Women's National Championship, where Jharkhand emerged as champions. With the FIH Hockey Nations Cup in New Zealand just weeks away, the focus in Bengaluru is on razor sharp execution. Coach Marijne believes this concentrated training period is vital for the goalkeepers to reach peak form.



India's young ice hockey stars target glory

KYRGYZSTAN

The next generation of Indian winter athletes has arrived in Bishkek for the 2026 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Asia Cup. Set to run from April 27 to May 3, the tournament will see the young Indian squad battle against regional rivals including Mongolia, Uzbekistan, and hosts Kyrgyzstan. This trip represents a major step forward for the sport in India, which has seen a massive surge in popularity over the last year.

Led by captain Gurtej Singh Bhatti, the team features a strong core of players from Ladakh and Chandigarh, alongside talent from across the nation.

Their arrival comes at a time of historic momentum. Just last year, the Indian women's team captured the country's first ever international medal in the sport, a bronze at the 2025 Asia Cup.

Following that success, the sport gained national fame, with the team even appearing on the popular show Kaun Banega Crorepati.

The growth of the game is also visible back home.

The reopening of the Himadri Ice Rink in Dehradun and the successful launch of the India Ice Hockey League have provided players with better training and more competition. Harjinder Singh, General Secretary of the Ice Hockey Association of India, noted that having players from multiple states proves the game is expanding beyond its traditional mountain roots.

With local real estate developer SS Group backing the team, the U18 boys are ready to leave their mark. As they hit the ice this week, they carry the hopes of a nation eager to prove that India can be a contender even in winter sports.

India's rising ice hockey stars compete at the 2026 U18 Asia Cup in Kyrgyzstan, fueled by recent historic achievements and a growing national league.

Golf star Justin Rose joins India field

NEW DELHI

The lush greens of the Delhi Golf Club are preparing for a historic showdown as major champion Justin Rose officially joins the star studded lineup for the upcoming DP World India Championship. In what marks his professional debut on Indian soil, the world number five will compete in the prestigious tournament scheduled from October 15 to 18. This announcement adds another layer of excitement to the \$4,000,000 event, which is fast becoming one of the most anticipated stops on the golfing calendar. Fans in the capital will witness a rare gathering of legends. Rose will tee off alongside defending champion Tommy Fleetwood and the red hot Rory McIlroy, who recently

secured back-to-back Masters titles. The presence of these three titans promises an unforgettable weekend of high stakes sportsmanship and precision.

Justin Rose has been a household name in global golf for over two decades. Since his first professional victory in 2002, he has built a resume that defines greatness. His career highlights include a thrilling U.S. Open victory in 2013 and a historic Olympic gold medal in Rio. Now, he brings that world class experience to New Delhi, eager to test his skills against a challenging course and a formidable field.

Local enthusiasts are buzzing with anticipation to see Rose's iconic swing in person. The tournament isn't just about the prize money, it is a celebration of the sport's growth in India. As these global icons gather, Delhi will truly become the center of the golfing world this October.

Sri Lanka cricket chief faces high-stakes meeting

COLOMBO

The future of Sri Lankan cricket hangs in the balance as President Anura Kumara Dissanayake prepares for a critical face-to-face meeting with the country's cricket chief, Shammi Silva. This high profile discussion comes at a time of intense speculation regarding a major shake-up within the nation's most beloved sport.

Insiders close to Silva confirmed that the meeting is set for later this evening, sparking a wave of curiosity across the cricketing community. For weeks, rumors have swirled through local media suggesting that the government is unhappy with the current state of cricket administration. There is growing talk that Silva could be asked to step down to make way for a fresh start.

The primary concern for fans and officials alike is the possibility of the government appointing an interim administration. Such a move would essentially hit the reset button on the board's leadership in hopes of streamlining the sport and improving national performance. While the government wants to ensure the game is managed with transparency and excellence, any political interference in sports

often brings its own set of challenges. As the two leaders sit down to talk, the goal is clear - finding the best path forward for Sri Lankan cricket. For a nation that lives and breathes the sport, the outcome of this meeting is about more than just boardrooms and titles. It is about restoring pride to the jersey and ensuring that the next generation of cricketers has the solid leadership

they deserve to thrive on the world stage.



Golf star Justin Rose joins India field

NEW DELHI

Indian equestrian star Anush Agarwalla has galloped into the spotlight once again, delivering a spectacular performance on the global stage. Competing at the CDI Hagen in Germany, one of Europe's most prestigious international dressage events, Agarwalla secured a brilliant second-place finish. This silver-medal achievement marks another proud moment for Indian sports, proving that the nation's talent in the saddle is truly world-class.

Riding his skilled and elegant mare, Floriana, Agarwalla posted an impressive score of 70.94 percent. Dressage is often described as "horse ballet," requiring a perfect bond between the rider and the animal. The duo certainly lived up to that description, presenting a test that was both polished and expressive. Their seamless movements and undeniable chemistry clearly caught the eyes of the international judges, who rewarded their hard work with a spot on the podium. This success is more than just a single victory, it represents the rapid rise of a young athlete dedicated to his craft. For Agarwalla, every competition in Europe is a step toward making India a powerhouse in equestrian sports. His journey with Floriana continues to inspire fans back home, showing that with patience and precision, international dreams are well within reach. As the equestrian world takes notice of his talent, Agarwalla remains focused on climbing the ranks. This landmark achievement in Hagen is a testament to his discipline and the growing prestige of Indian riders abroad. For now, the silver medal shines brightly as a symbol of his bright future.



LORD'S HONORS SOUTH ASIAN STARS WITH EXHIBITION

LONDON

The historic walls of Lord's Cricket Ground are whispering new stories this week. A vibrant exhibition celebrating the deep connection between the South Asian community and British cricket has officially opened at the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Museum. Titled "The Many Worlds of British Asian Cricket," this showcase shines a long overdue spotlight on the players, families, and fans who have shaped the sport in the United Kingdom. Located in the museum's Community Gallery, the exhibition has become a central part of the famous Lord's tour. Visitors are greeted by a rich collection of memorabilia, including professional equipment and jerseys worn by



South Asian athletes who climbed to the very peak of the game. It's a journey through time, showing how local club cricket transformed into international stardom. The display doesn't just focus on local heroes, it also honors global icons like Sachin Tendulkar. The "Master Blaster" famously spent time playing club and county cricket in England, a move that ignited a passion for the sport in thousands of young British

Asians. By highlighting these legends, the museum shows how one person's talent can inspire an entire generation to pick up a bat or ball. This exhibition is a heartfelt tribute to the heritage and heartbeat of the game. It recognizes that cricket in Britain is more than just a match, it is a shared language that bridges cultures. For fans visiting the "Home of Cricket," it offers a chance to celebrate the diverse faces that make the sport so beloved.

Formula One returns to iconic Istanbul circuit

TURKEY

Formula One fans have a major reason to celebrate as the legendary Istanbul Park circuit officially returns to the global racing calendar. The Turkish presidency confirmed that a long-term agreement has

been reached to host the Turkish Grand Prix for at least five years, starting in 2027. The news marks the end of a determined, years-long campaign by Turkey to bring the pinnacle of motorsport back to its shores. President Tayyip Erdogan is scheduled to

announce the full details of the deal alongside F1 CEO Stefano Domenicali and FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem. While financial specifics are still being finalized, the return is seen as a massive victory for Turkish sports tourism.

QUICK READ



Pemmasani pushes telecom sector towards design innovation

NEW DELHI
Minister of State for Communications Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar has urged India's telecom industry to transition from a services-driven approach to design-led innovation, emphasizing greater investment in research and development. He stressed that owning core technologies and product design is essential for global competitiveness, especially with emerging 6G technologies. Highlighting institutions like the Centre for Development of Telematics, he called for stronger indigenous capabilities to reduce import dependence. Increased R&D spending, he noted, can boost exports, create intellectual property, and strengthen supply chain resilience. He also advocated deeper collaboration between industry, academia, and government to accelerate innovation in 5G and future telecom technologies. This will position India as a global leader.

Crude oil prices surge above \$100 amid tensions

MUMBAI
International crude oil prices rose sharply, gaining up to 2% as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East intensified, despite a reported US ceasefire announcement. Brent crude climbed to around \$107 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) rose to about \$97.6. Weekly gains have been significant, with Brent up nearly 19% and WTI about 17%, driven largely by supply concerns. Market volatility has been fueled by disruptions near the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil transit route carrying roughly 20% of global oil trade. Analysts said prices remain cautiously bullish, with resistance near \$99–\$104.50 and potential upside toward \$110, while \$95 is seen as key support. Domestic Indian markets saw MCX crude dip slightly even as global prices surged.

India sees cash-digital surge, SBI flags paradox trend

NEW DELHI
India is witnessing a unique financial pattern where both cash usage and digital payments are growing simultaneously, a trend highlighted by State Bank of India (SBI) as a “cash paradox.” SBI Research notes that while digital platforms like UPI are expanding rapidly for everyday transactions, cash circulation remains elevated due to informal payments, rural dependence, and precautionary holdings. Rather than replacing cash, digital payments are growing alongside it, creating a hybrid payment ecosystem. The report emphasizes that India's economy continues to balance traditional and modern payment systems. It also suggests strengthening digital infrastructure and financial inclusion to support future growth, including wider adoption of emerging technologies like CBDC across sectors.

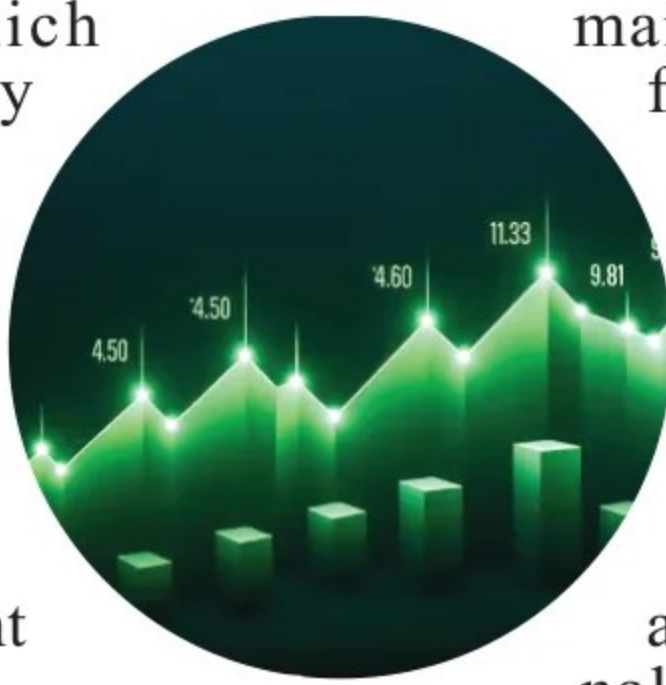
Indian markets tumble as crude surges, IT drags indices

Indian markets fell sharply as crude oil surged above \$107 and IT sector weakness dragged indices lower.

MUMBAI

Indian equity markets witnessed a sharp sell-off on Friday, with the BSE Sensex falling 982 points and the Nifty dropping 1.14% as investors reacted to rising global oil prices and weak IT sector performance. The decline was driven primarily by Brent crude oil prices crossing the \$107 per barrel mark, raising concerns over inflation, import costs, and widening fiscal pressures. Higher oil prices typically hurt India, which relies heavily on energy imports, and also weigh on corporate earnings expectations.

Sentiment was further dampened by disappointing quarterly results and cautious outlooks from major IT companies, which triggered heavy selling in technology stocks. The IT sector has been under pressure due to slowing global demand and uncertainty in client spending. Foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows also added to market weakness, as global risk aversion in-



creased amid geopolitical tensions in West Asia and volatility in commodity markets. Broader Asian cues remained weak, reinforcing the negative trend on Dalal Street. Analysts noted that markets are increasingly sensitive to crude oil movements and earnings signals, making short-term volatility likely. Despite the sharp fall, some experts believe corrections could offer selective buying opportunities in fundamentally strong stocks, provided macro risks such as oil prices and global inflation remain contained. Overall, the session reflected a risk-off environment, with energy shocks and earnings disappointment combining to push Indian equities lower.

- Crude oil crosses 107 dollars
- IT sector stocks drag markets
- Sensex falls nearly 1000 points
- Nifty drops over one percent
- Foreign investors continue selling pressure

India and US continue BTA talks focusing on market access, digital trade, investment flows, and economic cooperation.

India-US trade talks focus on market access, digital rules

NEW DELHI

India and the United States held fresh discussions in Washington under the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), focusing on market access, digital trade, and investment flows, according to official updates from the Indian side. The talks are part of ongoing negotiations aimed at building a broader trade framework between India and United States. Both sides are working toward improving access for goods and services while addressing long-standing concerns around tariffs, regulatory barriers, and non-tariff restrictions. A key area of discussion is market access, where India is seeking improved entry for its exports in the US market, while the US is pushing for



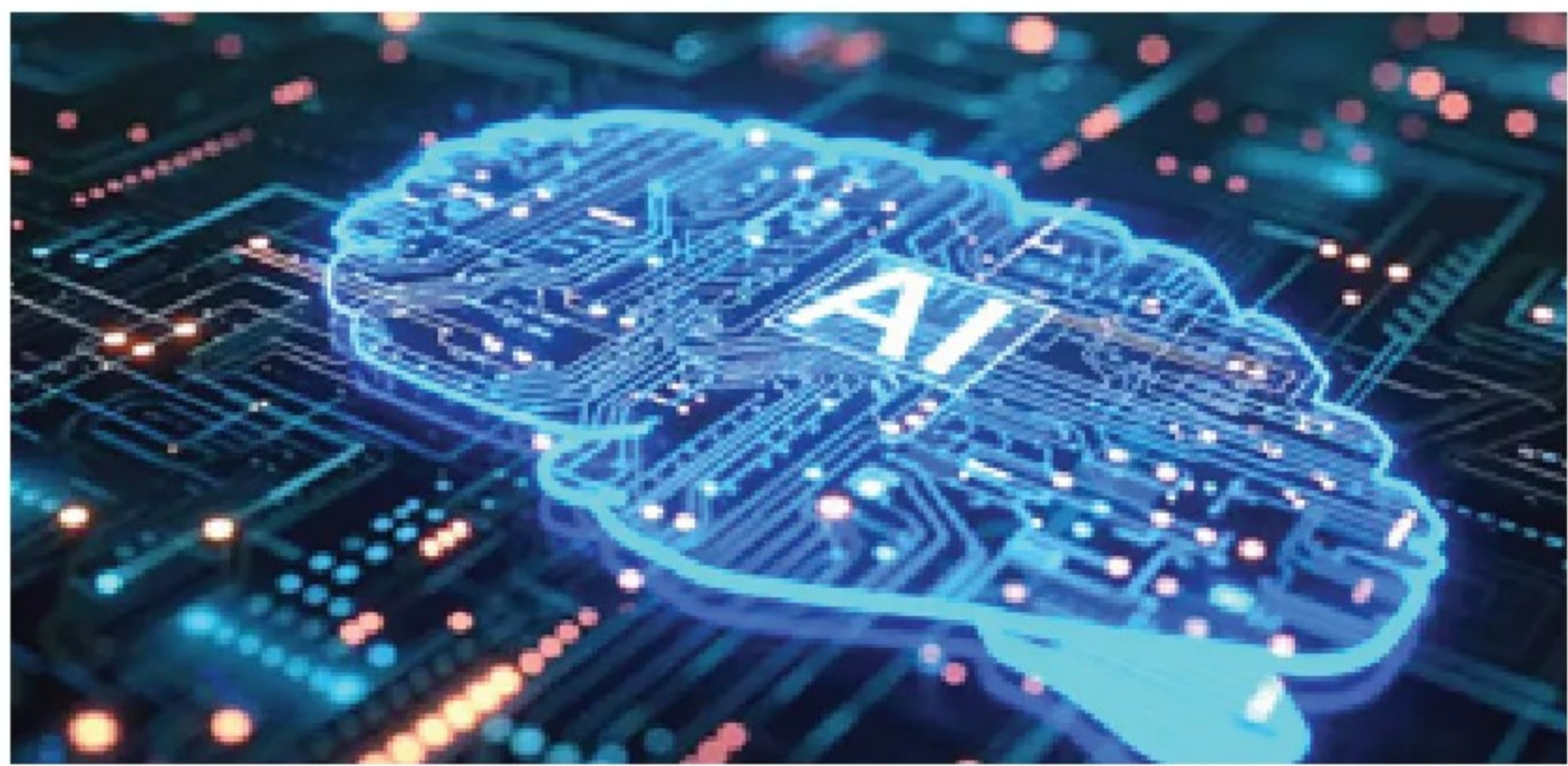
easier access in sectors such as agriculture, industrial goods, and technology services. The negotiations also include efforts to reduce technical barriers that restrict cross-border trade. Digital trade has emerged as another major pillar of the talks. Both countries are exploring rules to govern data flows, e-commerce standards, and digital services, with an emphasis on creating predictable and secure frameworks for technology-driven trade.

Investment facilitation is also being discussed to encourage stronger capital flows between the two economies. According to reports, the latest round of talks in Washington is seen as constructive, with both sides aiming to narrow differences ahead of a potential interim agreement. Recent developments suggest momentum in the broader BTA process, with officials targeting enhanced economic cooperation and a long-term goal of significantly expanding bilateral trade. The discussions come amid a wider push by both governments to deepen strategic economic ties, strengthen supply chains, and align on emerging areas such as technology standards and digital governance, which are expected to play a central role in future trade agreements.

Falling rupee seen as long-term buying opportunity

NEW DELHI

India's Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran has described the weakening rupee as a potential buying opportunity for long-term investors, calling the currency “fundamentally undervalued” despite near-term pressures. Nageswaran said the current valuation offers an attractive entry point for those betting on India's long-term growth story. His remarks come as the rupee continues to face sustained pressure from global economic headwinds. The currency has been on a losing streak, recently slipping to 94.25 against the US dollar, weighed down by rising crude oil prices. Brent crude has remained above \$100 per barrel amid tensions in the Middle East, increasing import costs and fuelling inflation concerns.



AI hiring surge spreads beyond India's metro cities

NEW DELHI

AI engineering hiring in India has surged 59.5% year-on-year, outpacing major global economies such as the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Germany, according to a new report by LinkedIn. The report highlights that while traditional tech hubs like Bengaluru and Hyderabad continue to lead in AI hiring, demand is increasingly spreading to emerging cities such as Vijayawada. Hyderabad recorded a 51% rise in AI engineering roles, while Vijayawada saw a strong 45.5% increase, reflecting a broader geographic shift. This growth is being driven by rapid adoption of artificial intelligence across organisations of all sizes. Large enterprises still account for the highest share of AI hiring, backed by investments in infrastructure, governance, and large-scale deployment. However, small and medium-sized businesses are quickly catching up, playing a key role in moving AI from experimentation to practical implementation. Among the fastest-growing skills in demand are AI Agents, AI Productivity tools, and platforms like Azure AI

AI hiring in India jumps 59.5%, led by LinkedIn report, as demand spreads beyond metros, boosting opportunities in emerging cities and applied AI skills.

Studio, signalling a shift toward applied, execution-focused capabilities. In sectors such as manufacturing, skills like AI prompting and agent-based systems are becoming increasingly important to enhance employability. The supply of AI talent is also expanding alongside demand. In manufacturing alone, AI engineering talent has grown fourfold, reaching about 2% of the workforce by 2025, indicating deeper integration of AI into core industrial operations. Malai Lakshmanan, Head of Engineering at LinkedIn India, noted that engineers should prioritise practical, hands-on AI skills and focus on integrating AI into everyday workflows. As adoption accelerates across industries, professionals who can translate AI from concept to execution are likely to benefit the most from the growing opportunities.

WA tensions accelerate Asia's renewable shift

NEW DELHI

Rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia and disruptions in oil supply could push Asian economies to accelerate their transition toward renewable energy, according to a report by Jefferies. The brokerage highlighted that the ongoing crisis, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, poses significant risks to energy security, especially for oil-import-dependent nations across Asia. The Strait of Hormuz is a critical global energy artery, handling nearly 20 percent of the world's oil trade, with a majority of shipments destined for Asian countries. Any prolonged disruption in this route can severely constrain supply, drive up crude prices, and create volatility in energy markets. Recent developments have already triggered sharp increases in oil prices and disrupted supply chains. Analysts note that such shocks expose the

vulnerability of economies heavily reliant on fossil fuel imports, particularly countries like India, China, Japan, and South Korea. Jefferies believes that sustained supply disruptions could act as a structural catalyst for policy shifts. Governments may increasingly prioritize energy diversification, domestic production, and investment in renewables such as solar, wind, and green hydrogen. The crisis underscores the urgency of reducing dependence on imported crude and enhancing energy resilience. In addition, higher fossil fuel prices tend to improve the relative competitiveness of renewable energy sources, making clean energy investments more attractive. This could accelerate ongoing energy transition efforts across the region. While the immediate impact of the crisis is inflationary and poses risks to growth, it may also fast-track long-term structural changes in energy consumption patterns.

India releases ₹30 bn swap aid to Maldives

MALE

India has approved the first withdrawal of ₹30 billion under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework to support the Maldives' financial stability, according to the Indian High Commission in Male. The facility is part of the broader currency swap arrangement between the Reserve Bank of India and the Maldivian government, signed during President Mohamed Muizzu's visit to India in October 2024. The framework is designed to provide short-term liquidity support to SAARC member countries during financial stress. The latest withdrawal follows the earlier \$400 million facility availed by the Maldives under the same framework, which matured recently. The Maldivian government confirmed that it has settled the previous obligation, underscoring its commitment to



meeting external debt repayments. India has provided substantial financial support to the Maldives over the years through multiple channels, including currency swaps and emergency credit lines. Since 2012, the RBI has extended over \$1.1 billion in swap assistance to the island nation. The High Commission noted that the swap arrangement has played a key role in maintaining macroeconomic and financial stability in the Mal-

ddives, particularly during periods of external pressure. India also reiterated that the Maldives remains a key partner under its Neighbourhood First policy and Vision MAHASAGAR, highlighting New Delhi's role as a “first responder” in times of economic need. The assistance comes as the Maldives continues to manage external financing pressures while balancing debt obligations and economic recovery efforts.

AI BANKING DEFENCES

AI threats push banks to build stronger defences

PUNE

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has urged Indian banks to significantly strengthen their cybersecurity frameworks, warning that rapidly evolving artificial intelligence (AI) risks could outpace existing safeguards. Speaking after a high-level review with banking leaders and regulators, she stressed that traditional systems “may no longer be sufficient” to deal with emerging AI-driven threats. The minister called for a more proactive and forward-looking approach, asking banks to adopt advanced, AI-enabled security systems

- Banks urged strengthen AI cybersecurity defences
- AI threats outpacing traditional safeguards
- Real-time threat intelligence sharing needed
- Advanced AI security systems adoption
- Geopolitical risks adding financial pressure

and continuously upgrade their technological infrastructure. She emphasised the need to secure IT systems, protect customer data, and safeguard financial assets from increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks. A key focus area is the cre-

ation of robust real-time threat intelligence-sharing mechanisms among banks, regulators, and agencies such as CERT-In. This would allow early identification of risks and faster dissemination of information across the financial ecosystem, helping institutions respond quickly to potential breaches. Concerns have been heightened by global developments in advanced AI models, which experts warn could be misused to exploit software vulner-

abilities or enable large-scale financial fraud. The government has already begun assessing these risks through coordinated discussions involving financial and technology stakeholders. Alongside AI-related risks, Sitharaman also highlighted the broader economic implications of geopolitical tensions in West Asia. She noted that disruptions in key energy routes, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, are pushing up crude oil prices and adding uncer-

tainty to global markets. These developments, she indicated, require close monitoring as they can impact inflation, financial stability, and overall economic growth. While India's banking system remains resilient, the combination of technological disruption and geopolitical volatility underscores the need for vigilance and preparedness. Overall, the government's message is clear: Indian banks must move beyond reactive measures and build adaptive, intelligence-driven defence systems to stay ahead of evolving AI threats, while also remaining alert to global risks that could affect the financial sector.





Royal Challengers Bengaluru beat Gujarat Titans by 5 Wickets in the IPL 2026 clash at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Friday.

High stakes intensity powers record breaking hundred

Sanju Samson produced a match-winning century under intense pressure as CSK dominated MI in a high-stakes clash.

MUMBAI

Chennai Super Kings star Sanju Samson has credited the fierce "El Clasico" rivalry with Mumbai Indians for pushing him to achieve greatness. In a high-pressure clash at the Wankhede Stadium, the wicketkeeper-batter smashed a sensational, unbeaten 101 off just 54 balls. His career-defining performance powered Chennai to a massive 207/6, ultimately leading to a dominant 103-run victory over their arch-rivals.

Speaking after the match, Samson revealed that the intense atmosphere and high expectations actually helped his game. He ex-

plained that he thrives on tough challenges and felt motivated by the historic significance of the fixture. "When I see the intensity building up, that is when my best comes out," Samson shared. His century was a masterclass in timing, featuring ten boundaries and six towering sixes.

The knock was particularly historic, as Samson became the first-ever Chennai player to score a hundred against Mumbai Indians.

He navigated a tricky pitch where the ball was swinging early on, showing immense maturity as wickets fell around him. A key moment came in the final over, where Samson had a tactical chat

with teammate Akeal Hosein to ensure he faced every delivery.

By scoring 16 runs in that final over, he secured his second century of the 2026 season. While personal milestones are special, Samson emphasized that team success remains his priority. He praised his younger teammates for their small but vital contributions, noting that this victory provides perfect momentum for the matches ahead.



SACHIN TENDULKAR celebrates fifty three years of greatness

NEW DELHI

The "God of Cricket" has reached another milestone. India's legendary batsman, Sachin Tendulkar, celebrated his 53rd birthday recently, sparking a wave of nostalgia across the sporting world. Known as the Master Blaster, Tendulkar's career remains the gold standard for excellence, defined by records that many believe will never be broken.

Over a staggering 24 year career, Tendulkar transformed from a teenage prodigy into a global icon. He stands alone as the most prolific run maker in history, accumulating an incredible 34,357 international runs. His resilience is perhaps



Celebrating fifty-three years, the "God of Cricket" Sachin Tendulkar remains the gold standard of sporting excellence, boasting unmatched records and an eternal legacy for global fans.

best shown by his 200 Test appearances, the most by any player, where he amassed 15,921 runs and 51 centuries. Whether in white or red-ball cricket, his technical perfection and hunger for runs were simply unmatched. In the One Day International format, Tendulkar was equally dominant. He holds the record for the most runs and centuries in a single calendar year, a feat achieved in 1998. Remarkably, he was the first to reach 18,000 ODI runs and holds the world record for the most fours, hitting the boundary over 4,000 times across all formats. Beyond the massive numbers, including 76 Player of the Match awards, Tendulkar's legacy is built on the joy he brought to millions.



Cricket legend Suzie Bates announces final farewell

NEW ZEALAND

The world of cricket is preparing to say goodbye to a true icon. New Zealand's legendary all-rounder, Suzie Bates, has officially announced her plan to retire from international sports. Her incredible journey will conclude following the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup held in England this June.

Bates has been a cornerstone of the White Ferns for two decades. Since her debut against India in 2006, she has represented her country 362 times. Known for her powerful batting and handy bowling, she retires as New Zealand's highest run-scorer of all time.

With 14 centuries and 145 wickets across all formats, her resume ranks among the greatest in the history of the game. Reflecting on her career, Bates

shared that she feels immense pride in wearing the silver fern. She noted how quickly twenty years passed and thanked her teammates for the joy they shared. While she has achieved individual greatness, including being named ICC Player of the Year multiple times, her focus remains on the team.

Her final "mission" is to help New Zealand defend their title and win back-to-back trophies in the United Kingdom. Bates led the team as captain for seven years and played a vital role in their historic 2024 World Cup victory.

As she prepares for her last dance in Group B against rivals like England and the West Indies, fans everywhere are celebrating a pioneer who changed women's cricket forever. She leaves a legacy of purpose, excellence, and pure sporting joy.



New volleyball league to support local athletes

NEW DELHI

A groundbreaking new sports initiative is set to transform the lives of athletes in the national capital.

The Delhi Pro Volleyball League (DPVL), announced earlier this year, aims to provide players with more than just a place to play, it focuses on financial stability and long term professional recognition.

This "player first" movement wants to ensure that talent is rewarded with a sustainable career path rather than just personal passion.

Founded by former national players Neeti Rawat and Jasoda Gulliya, the DPVL is India's first women led professional volleyball league. The duo combines athletic

experience with expertise in media and finance to create a solid foundation for the sport.

Rawat, a sports broadcasting expert, aims to boost the league's visibility, while Gulliya focuses on building a business model that offers players real economic security.

The league is scheduled to debut later in 2026, following the conclusion of the IPL cricket season.

It will feature six franchise teams, including names like the Purani Dilli Panthers and New Delhi Titans. Matches are expected to take place at iconic venues such as the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

With the official backing of the Delhi Volleyball Association, the DPVL intends to build a complete ecosystem.



Prachi Gaikwad shoots India to global top

NEW DELHI

India has reclaimed its position at the summit of the medal tally at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Cairo, thanks to a stunning golden performance by Prachi Gaikwad. Competing in the junior women's 50m rifle 3 positions event, Gaikwad showed incredible nerves of steel to edge out her competition in a nail biting final. Her victory marks India's second gold of the prestigious tournament.

The final was a dramatic seesaw battle. Gaikwad started slowly, sitting in fifth place after the kneeling round, but surged into contention during the prone stage. In the final standing position, she briefly lost her lead to neutral athlete Darya Chuprys. However, with the pressure at its peak, the Indian shooter fired a series of near perfect shots to win by a tiny margin of 0.2 points.

Rajat Chauhan honored for historic archery success

JAIPUR

India's star archer Rajat Chauhan has been awarded the prestigious DGP Commendation Disc for his exceptional contributions to sports.

The honor was presented by Rajasthan's Director General of Police, Rajeev Kumar Sharma, in recognition of Chauhan's consistent success at both national and international levels. Chauhan, who serves as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in the Rajasthan Police, has become one of the force's most decorated athletes.

Chauhan expressed

deep gratitude upon receiving the award, stating that he is immensely happy to be honored by his own department. He vowed to continue bringing glory to the Rajasthan Police and the nation through his performances. His career is filled with milestones, including winning multiple gold medals at the 2022 World Cup and the 2023 World Police Games. Most recently, he secured a gold and two bronze medals at the 2026 Asia Archery Cup.



Beyond his current achievements, Chauhan is looking toward a long held dream. For years, he has envisioned competing on the world's biggest stage.

Bangladesh pulls star bowlers from Pakistan league

BANGLADESH

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has taken a firm stand to protect its players ahead of a major series. The board officially withdrew the permission for star pacer Mustafizur Rahman to play in the Pakistan Super League (PSL). This decision comes after medical experts advised the left arm bowler to undergo immediate scans and rehabilitation for an injury following the recent series against New Zealand.

Mustafizur is not the only player being held back. Rising fast bowler Nahid Rana, who was recently named "Player of the Series" against New Zealand, will also miss the PSL. The board decided to keep Rana at home to

ensure he is physically ready for the critical two match Test series against Pakistan starting May 8. By keeping these key bowlers in Bangladesh, the BCB hopes to manage their workload and prevent further injuries.

The news follows Bangladesh's successful 2-1 victory over New Zealand in the One Day International series. With several veteran bowlers now resting or recovering, the national team has introduced several fresh faces for the upcoming T20 matches against New Zealand. New-



comers like Abdul Gaffar Saqlain and Ripon Mondal have been called up to fill the void left by the senior stars.

By prioritizing national duty over international leagues, the BCB is signaling how much they value the upcoming Pakistan Tests.

Fans are disappointed to miss the stars in the PSL, but the board insists that player health must come first to ensure success on the world stage.

Indian brothers win three historic pickleball golds

MUMBAI

Indian siblings Arjun and Aditya Singh have made history by clinching three gold medals at the US Open Pickleball Championship in Naples, Florida. The duo's stellar performance has firmly placed India on the global map for this rapidly growing sport. Competing against the world's best, the brothers proved their mettle by toppling top seeds and favorites in multiple high stakes categories. Aditya and Arjun secured their first gold together in the Under 18 Boys' Doubles. They followed this tri-

umph with a second gold in the Men's Doubles 5.0 category, showcasing incredible chemistry on the court. Arjun Singh then added a third gold to the national tally by winning the Men's Singles 5.0 event. In total, the Indian contingent finished the prestigious tournament with eight medals, including four golds, two silvers, and two bronzes.

Speaking after their victory, the brothers were quick to credit their success to the Maharashtra Pickleball Association (MPA) and the Indian Pickleball Association. Aditya Singh highlighted the crucial role of Rahool Kanal, noting that his unwavering support provided them with the elite



training and resources necessary to compete at such a high level. "This win belongs to everyone who believed in us," he added.

The newly crowned champions are not resting on their laurels. They are now prepar-

ing to return home for the Maharashtra Open 2026. With the momentum from their historic US Open run, the Singh brothers hope to inspire a new generation of Indian athletes to pick up a paddle and chase global glory.